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NANCY IS THE SPECIAL GUEST AT OLD SCHOOL
PAGE 19

MPs debate air strikes

THE momentous decision on whether to take military action or not is one of the most agonising an MP may face.

This week, members of the House of Commons faced just that dilemma. As The GEM was going to press yesterday, MPs were voting on whether Britain should take part in air strikes against Islamic State forces based in Syria.

The Government motion under consideration made a number of points that 'the House' had noted:

That ISIL poses a threat to the UK.

That it welcomes United Nations Security Council Resolution 2249, which determines that ISIL constitutes an 'unprecedented threat'.

That it recognises the importance of post-conflict planning.

It was asked to support the Government in taking military action, specifically airstrikes, exclusively against ISIL in Syria.

Some critics oppose the bombing, citing Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya as unresolved conflicts after bombing campaigns. They also argue that when countries in the West take military action in the Middle East, it encourages the radicalisation of some young Muslims.

• *The GEM would welcome our readers' views on an explosive issue that has polarised opinion in the country.*

Cowbridge's Reindeer Parade went ahead in difficult circumstances last Sunday, as strong winds and rain swept across the Vale. However, there were plenty of youngsters who were determined to meet Santa. Quite a few of the children dressed up as his elves, and are pictured (left) with Santa, and also with Coun David Morris, the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian. (See page 20 for more photos of the day, by Glyn Evans).

The Poppy Appeal's display opens a window on the past

Report by PHILIP IRWIN

THE large poppies fixed to the lamp posts in Cowbridge and Llanblethian during this year's Poppy Appeal produced much favourable comment from visitors.

In fact, it is quite likely that other communities will look to do the same thing next year.

However, another spin-off from the displays was the emergence of more information about one of the Llanblethian men who were remembered in this way – including a family photograph!

The niece of one of the men who lost his life during WW1 contacted Poppy Appeal organiser David Howell, and they shared the information they had about him.

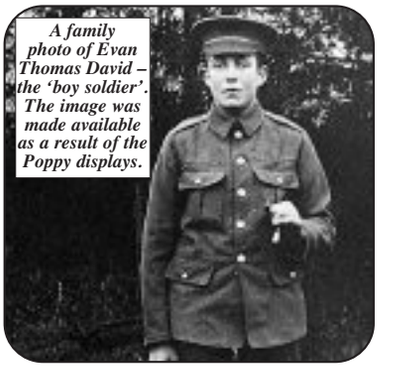
Mr Howell said: "It revealed a poignant story of how, what may have started as a big adventure, turned into a tragedy. It is very moving and we felt we should share it with the people of Cowbridge".

Evan Thomas David was born in Llanblethian in mid 1898. He was the elder of two sons, and two daughters, of David and Elma David.

The family lived at various homes in Llanblethian when Tom was a child and at the time of the 1911 census, lived near Kingscombe Farm. Young Tom, at this time was 12 years of age, and was described as a butcher's helper.

War was declared in August 1914 and Lord Kitchener immediately put out a call for men to enlist. The feeling in the country at the time was almost one of euphoria, recruitment was in full swing across the country and the general opinion was that the war would be over by Christmas.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)



A family photo of Evan Thomas David – the 'boy soldier'. The image was made available as a result of the Poppy displays.

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IMPORTANT: We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail. An email address alone is not sufficient! We will (*in certain circumstances*) protect a writer's identity, if requested.

Poem born of love

I WOULD just like to comment on the beautiful poem to Ella Rhian in The GEM birth notices last week).

She is a very lucky little girl to have such a loving, great grandad who has so eloquently and tenderly said the words his dear wife is now unable to express because of her illness.

I hope Ella will treasure it forever, and the love of her great grandparents.

It is a gift to be able to put into words the way we feel; and to be caring enough to take the time to say those beautiful words on behalf of the wife he obviously loves dearly, is rare indeed.

Glenys Priest,
Barry.

Moved to tears

I AM writing while crying after reading the poem in the birth notices in last week's GEM.

I had to write to say how beautiful it is, while being a sad reminder of what a cruel illness Alzheimer's disease is.

What a beautiful poem and good advice and I hope Ella Rhian has a wonderful long and happy life.

Name and address supplied.

No road cure!

WITH regard to Paul Blanchland's letter in The GEM last week, the reason the cycle path by the Barry crematorium has been dug up, is that some bright spark in the council has come up with the bright idea of replacing it with a bus lane and cycle path – as if that is going to cure Port Road's traffic problems!

D Coles,
Barry.

'Look into the street potholes!'

I WAS interested to read a letter from Mr B Kirke, of Crossways Street, Barry, regarding potholes in his locality.

I have now asked the highways department at the Vale of Glamorgan Council if they will go out and inspect the potholes in Bassett Street and Crossways Street with a view to action.

I am sorry to hear about this matter and sincerely hope that these roads will be added to the list to be done next.

I do not support turning the lights off at night, and share Mr Kirke's concern about how these holes are a health and safety issue when the lights are off.

Perhaps instead of switching the lights off, the council should consider scrapping the Mayor role to save money? Clearly, more needs to be done in the Bassett area.

Coun Richard Bertin,
Independent,
Vale Council.

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MERGER: 'THE VALE AND CARDIFF ARE NOT SO DIFFERENT'

I AND many others agree that the WAG proposal to merge 22 local authorities into eight is in the public interest, as it will save at least £650million over ten years.

It is unfortunate that around 2,000 admin jobs will be lost during this process; currently there are 1,250 serving salaried councillors in Wales, which will be reduced significantly to approximately 600.

These changes are necessary in light of the future cuts facing local government.

Our current leader, Coun Neil Moore, and most other councillors are against the proposed merger, as it suggests the VoG merge with Cardiff. He has stated that the merger is an untenable mess and calls on the WAG to abandon the flawed plan.

He also praises the council by using comforting words from reports to support the argument. However, I have noticed some caveats in the Auditor's report which state that specific indicators do not provide a clear picture of outcomes being achieved.

Additionally, there are 13 proposals for improvement which are not mentioned in the council leader's statement. The Auditor said that they will monitor the council's implementation of those proposed improvements.

It has not been stated in any of the leader's reports on this issue that there is a significantly reduced probability of Vale councillors being re-elected should the mergers go ahead.

Therefore, self-interest prevails, with most councillors wishing to remain in office claiming a small stand-alone council is of great benefit to the electorate – questionable. In the interest of the taxpayer, the advantages are obvious – with eight chief executives, heads of education, social services, planning etc – instead of 22.

The leader claims the Vale of Glamorgan is very different from Cardiff, geographically and culturally. These differences are not significant enough to prevent a merger of the Vale Council with the go-ahead city of Cardiff under the direction of WAG with delivery of the 'City Deal' for Cardiff.

There is a real opportunity for local government to make great savings for the taxpayer and if councils work together, plan well, and involve their staff, there is an opportunity for significant savings – greater than the £650million identified.

This means more money for front-line public services and investment in communities supporting the economy. Primarily, as a taxpayer, secondly as a councillor, I hope the merger goes ahead.

Finally, unavoidable mergers to save money should not be used as an excuse to squander money on recruiting more Assembly members, since Wales has a population of only three million people.

Coun Philip Clarke,
Independent, Rhoose.

Fitting tribute to our Tanya

I DON'T usually put pen to paper, but I feel I must thank Mr Philip Irwin for the article he wrote in the Cowbridge and Llantwit GEM on November 19 regarding my wonderful niece Tanya Floyd.

Philip managed to capture the huge outpouring of grief that not only the family were feeling and still are, but also the enormous love that was felt for Tanya.

I must personally thank the community of Cowbridge for the love and support they showed to my sister and family and to Tanya's husband Mark and her sons Elis, Josef and Finley, as I have now seen such kindness and support in such huge measures; I know all the family have taken great comfort from this and wish to thank everyone.

Tanya's JustGiving page has now reached over £8,600 and is still rising, a huge thank you to Rhian Floyd who set up this page in memory of Tanya and also a thank you to those who donated and supported Tanya's two charities.

As stated in Philip's article, Tanya not only gave so much while she was alive, but also in her death by becoming an organ donor she has saved at least five people's lives to date.

As from December 1, in Wales we will have an 'opt out' system unless you register your decision. People should be aware that by not actually registering your decision, you are giving 'deemed consent', but this does not apply if you die outside of Wales, and this means the decision will then pass back to your next of kin.

By choosing to register a decision either online at organdonation.nhs.uk or by filling in the leaflet or by calling 0300 1232323, you could save many lives. There are 7,000 people on the UK waiting list for transplants. Please take the time to read about and consider becoming an organ donor.

Mandy McGowan,
Rhoose.

'Religion: remember the good works, too'

AS one of the Vale's many Quakers and, therefore, a pacifist, I was intrigued to read Diane Mitchell's headline letter 'Religions have run their course' (Letters, November 26) which suggested that religion was responsible for a vast range of violence in the world and was, therefore, no longer relevant.

Does she think that if there were no religion there would consequently be no anger, hatred, jealousy, greed, intolerance and all the other negative traits that lead to violence?

If not, then perhaps she ought to consider that without religion, people who wished to find a reason to fight would still do so.

Perhaps instead she might like to consider the vast range of good works done by religious groups. The next time she sees coverage of The Trussell Trust's vital work in establishing foodbanks across the UK for those most in need, she should remember that they are just one organisation with a religious background which has proved vital in combating poverty and deprivation.

Religion reflects the nature of human beings and could be used for good or ill. Of course, we should condemn its misuse by terrorists, but only if we also celebrate the works of those who understand its true message.

David Heald,
Llantwit Major.

'No-go areas' and a question of integration

I WRITE with regard to the article headed *'Multiculturalism has run its course… we must focus on integration,'* **by Dr Altaf Hussain in The GEM, on November 19.**

Well, I am outraged! I was born in Barry nearly 80 years ago, and had the privilege of growing up in what we understood was a 'Christian country'.

Not everyone shared our devotion to the Lord Jesus Christ, but this did not affect our relationships or friendships – even towards those from other countries and cultures.

Christianity teaches us to love – even to love our enemies.

I take exception to Dr Hussain telling us all that "we must focus on integration."

Is it not true that some parts of the UK have been taken over to such a degree that they are virtually no-go areas?

Many families make every effort to send their children to Islamic schools and colleges; they dictate how their wives and daughters should dress, and who their daughters should marry.

Women are downgraded to less than second class and non-Muslims are called "*dhimmies*" (second class citizens).

If I visited some Islamic countries, such as Saudi Arabia, I would not be allowed to take my Bible with me, and I would certainly not be allowed to build any kind of Christian church.

Saudi Arabia, which is given such a high profile in this country, allows public executions where people go along to observe these events, then return home to resume their lives.

The bloodshed there is quite comparable to that in Syria.

FOOTNOTE:
The GEM has withheld the elderly lady writer's name and address.

CHOIR SAYS 'THANK YOU

I AM pleased to report that the Barry Male Voice Choir's recent recruitment evening was a great success, and 19 prospective new members attended.

Now we hope that the majority of them will stay to increase the choir numbers and enjoy the experience as much as last year's recruits.

Thank you for the ongoing support provided by The GEM for all Barry Male Voice Choir activities.

B R Edwards,
(Treasurer).

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL DECEMBER 10)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
03 Thur	11.24	8.1	23.58	7.8
04 Fri			12.28	8.0
05 Sat	01.09	7.7	13.43	7.8
06 Sun	02.21	7.9	14.51	8.0
07 Mon	03.23	8.1	15.42	8.3
08 Tues	04.12	8.5	16.31	8.7
09 Wed	04.53	8.9	17.11	9.1
10 Thur	05.31	9.3	17.47	9.3

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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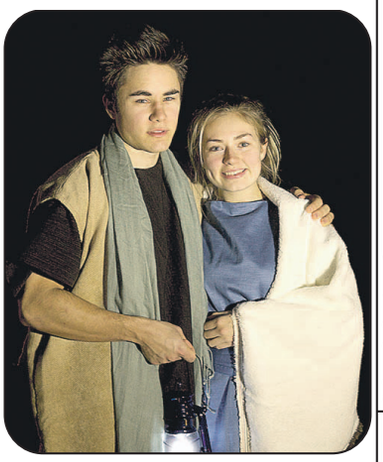
Popular 'Nativity Walk' returns



ABOVE: Simon Gooding and Rhiannon Miskin as Joseph and Mary.

The little town of Bethlehem is coming to Cowbridge next week – courtesy of Churches Together in Cowbridge.

On Friday, December 11 at 6pm, the Cowbridge 'Walking Nativity' is returning for its third year.

The Nativity, with parts all played by adults drawn from churches in Cowbridge, is set in the atmospheric surroundings of Old Hall Gardens and the Physic Garden, starting outside the library.

The event unfolds with Mary and Joseph slowly making their way to Bethlehem in search of somewhere to stay. As they go, the audience follow and carols are sung at each stage of the journey.

Local retained fireman, Simon Gooding, plays Joseph while Rhiannon Miskin is Mary.

Joseph and Mary meet the innkeepers, and then the shepherds, when an angel speaks to them of a great new birth.

In the Physic Garden, the wise-men will meet Herod and the drama unfolds as he learns of a new king. Finally, everyone arrives at the stable to celebrate the joy of Christmas and happiness at the birth of Jesus.

The Walking Nativity is free of charge, as are the refreshments that will be provided at the end of the journey. It is suitable for all ages, young and old and lasts about three-quarters of an hour.

It is an outside event and will go ahead whatever the weather, although the refreshments may be served inside.

For more information telephone Leonie Hain on 01446 775048.

Team Llansannor at footie festival

Chris Coleman with Llansannor pupils at the football festival.

TEAM Llansannor – Zara, Lucia, Megan, Luke, Alex and Griff – went to Jenner Park on Thursday, November 26 with Mrs Thorne to attend a football festival for the opening of the new pitch. Sixteen schools from the Vale took part.

Chris Coleman kicked off Llansannor's game against Jenner Park. Many thanks to Ben Williams for organising the event. A huge thank you to parents Mrs Rachel Jones and Mrs Kate Watts, for transporting the children to the stadium.

Age Connects and voluntary services host Christmas Day lunch at local Baptist church

Christmas is a very special time but for many people it is also a time that reinforces feelings of loneliness.

The importance of events like Christmas meals with friends, and opportunities to socialise, and enjoy happy memories cannot be underestimated.

With this in mind, on December 25, Age Connects Cardiff and the Vale, alongside Glamorgan Voluntary Services are putting a lunch on at Bethel Baptist Church in Llantwit Major.

Starting at 12pm – with a harpist to greet the guests on arrival – there will be a three course meal, with festive carols, a visit from Father Christmas, finishing with the Queen's Speech and a glass of bubbly.

One of the organisers said: "We can also provide transport. There are no costs involved, we just want you to come and enjoy lunch with us on Christmas Day, the only requirement are that you are over 60 and would otherwise be on your own."

Place are limited, so if you or someone you now is interested, they should contact organisers as soon as possible.

For further information please call Jane Platts on jane.platts@ageconnectscardiff.org.uk or 01446 795631.

COWBRIDGE HELPS SMASH CHARITY FUNDRAISING TARGET

STAFF at the Yorkshire Building Society Cowbridge branch have thanked residents who helped to smash a fundraising target for Marie Curie.

The society's 'Hour of Need' campaign was launched in 2014 with the aim of raising £500,000 by December 2016 – enough to support over 25,000 hours of nursing care for people with a terminal illness and their families across the UK.

The fundraising target has been reached a year early, with the current total standing at more than £700,000.

Every £20 raised funds one hour of care, and customers and colleagues at the Yorkshire Building Society branch in Cowbridge have contributed £1,225 to the campaign, the equivalent of 61 hours of Marie Curie nursing care.

To celebrate, the branch, on High Street, will be hosting a Christmas-themed 'thank you' event on December 22. People can show their support for Marie Curie by buying the charity's stylish Christmas tree decorations, with all proceeds supporting the Hour of Need campaign.

Kaye Cheeseman, manager of the branch, said: "We're so proud that customers in Cowbridge have helped us to make this the society's most successful ever national fundraising campaign. We hope our customers will call in so we can give them some Christmas treats to say thank you.

"The Hour of Need campaign is having a real impact on terminally ill people and their families and we will continue to raise even more money over the next 12 months."

Dr Jane Collins, chief executive of Marie Curie, said: "Raising more than £500,000 with more than a year left of the campaign is truly amazing and will make a real difference to people with a terminal illness and their loved ones across the UK."

To make a donation in support of the Hour of Need campaign, visit www.justgiving.com/hourofneed .

Nativity: no offence caused!

PERHAPS police cars and ambulance men were inevitable, and there may have been a vet in attendance in case the reindeer were suddenly taken ill, but it was a relief that the Cowbridge Nativity parade was not thought to offend people, and that the participants were not wearing high viz jackets.

R Bradshaw,
Cowbridge.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Your local correspondent is
NANCY DAVIDGE
"Tynewydd", Llangan.
(01656) 860303
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

New classrooms

THERE was an air of excitement at Llangan school when I arrived on Friday afternoon (November 27) for the official opening of the new classrooms.

I was given a conducted tour of the new building by headteacher Steve Williams. Children who will be occupying the new classrooms will have their own toilet/washroom facilities and, separate from the main classrooms, a fully-equipped room with TVs and computers.

A number of visitors assembled, including parents. It was nice to see Coun Alan Thomas, who is also a longstanding member of the board of governors of the school.

Mr Williams gave an outline of my long association with the school, which dates back to 1933, and my weekly visits to deliver The GEM.

I then cut the ribbon and declared the new classrooms officially opened; my thanks to Mr Williams for my beautiful flowers.

On Wednesday, December 9 at 1.30pm Llangan School will perform their Christmas concert and on December 11, pupils are going to the Grand Pavilion at Porthcawl to see *Beauty And The Beast*.

St Canna's

ON Sunday, December 13 St Canna's Church, Llangan, will be holding the annual communal service which will begin at 11.15am; on Christmas Day a Eucharist service will be held at 9.30am. Everyone will be welcome.

Reminder

SARON Chapel, Treoes, will be holding its Christmas service and party on Sunday, December 13 at 3pm; everyone is welcome.

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CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL SUPPORTS PROSTATE CYMRU CHARITY

Cor Meibion y Machlud sang during the festival launch night on Thursday.
PHOTOGRAPH by MIKE WILCOCK.

At the festival launch the Rector, Rev Stephen Adams, and organiser Margaret Harris were joined by the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian, Coun David Morris, and his consort, Mrs Lorraine Pointon-Bell.

The Poppy in Llanblethian that remembered Evan Thomas David.
(Photo by Mike Wilcock).

Tragic short life of a boy soldier

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Tom must have lied about his age as he was only 15 and "signed on," for the Welsh Regiment in the autumn of 1914; his mother is said to have been extremely unhappy about the situation.

His name was included in the Glamorgan Gazette's Roll of Honour for October 23, 1914, of Cowbridge men who had enlisted (T E David).

After a short training period, he was sent to war in France on February 17, 1915, still not having celebrated his 16th birthday.

On May 9, 1915, Tom, by now aged 16, was in action at the infamous Ypres battle, where he was wounded and gassed.

He returned home to convalesce, but only for a short time, as he was sent back to war in France in October 1915; while still only 17 years old.

He was invalided home with pleurisy in April 1916, almost certainly caused by the gassing he suffered, and discharged from the army in August the same year.

He was nursed by his mother at home in Llanblethian, but succumbed to his injuries and died at home on April 4, 1917, at just 18 years of age.

A report in the Glamorgan Gazette (April 13, 1917) refers to the burial of Tom David in Llanblethian Church, confirms his age as only 18, and describes him as "been through the thick of it ....home from the front, suffering from shrapnel wounds as well as being gassed."

His funeral is said to have been "very well attended".

Tom was interred at Llanblethian Church and a white cross to his memory is still behind the choir stall on the south side of the chancel of the church.

His grave, which he shares with his father, is to the west of the church.

Tom was awarded (posthumously) the 1914/15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Tom's story is one of the short and very tragic life, of what can only be described as a "boy soldier".

A closer examination of the fallen of Cowbridge and Llanblethian reveals that Tom may not have been the only "boy soldier".

Mr Howell said: "At least four other boys of about Tom's age, William Morgan Jenkins, David Miles, David Robert Bond and William Henry Williams, all of whom who lived in Llanblethian or the Westgate end of Cowbridge, all signed up at in autumn 1914.

"It is likely they knew one another, and it does not require a great leap of imagination to envisage them discussing the war, signing up and embarking on a "great adventure".

What has been revealed in Tom's story will help us remember the fallen of Cowbridge and Llanblethian.

If you have any information about any of the men on the Cowbridge and Llanblethian war memorials, please contact Poppy Appeal organiser David Howell on 01446 774306.

HOLY CROSS Church in Cowbridge held its popular Christmas tree festival last weekend (November 27-29).

This year, 75 trees created a wonderful spectacle in the church, including Prostate Cymru's tree, which was decorated by trustee Lyn Murray, Janine Rees and pupils from Pendoylan CIW Primary School.

Festive entertainment was provided by Cowbridge Male Voice Choir, Cowbridge Hand Bell Ringers and St Brides Major CIW Primary School over the weekend.

Prostate Cymru, which was chosen as the nominated charity for the festival this year, began life as GLAZE over a decade ago in Cowbridge, supporting green light laser treatment for benign prostate disease.

In 2010, the charity became Prostate Cymru to encompass all prostate issues, including prostate cancer. Currently it is helping to sustain green light laser treatment, supporting surgeons in the training of robotic surgery for prostate cancer, and raising awareness of prostate issues to help Welsh men.

For more information about the charity, visit www.prostatecymru.com.

Christmas bingo in Cowbridge

OUR last bingo meeting for this year will be on Thursday, December 10 and after much discussion, we have decided to call it 'Christmas bingo'!

There will be a very good first prize for the raffle and we thought it would be rather nice if any guests would like to contribute some of the prizes – after all, it is the season of giving!

So, turn up in your thousands; not forgetting your bingo dabber, your wine, and perhaps a few friends!

Eyes down is at 7pm for 7.30pm in the Lesser Hall of Cowbridge Town Hall for this special meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

The first meeting in the new year will be on Thursday, February 4. In the meantime, a very happy Christmas to you all.

BASIL WATKINS

CHRISTMAS GIFT BOXES FOR NEEDY

DUE to great support from Operation Christmas Child volunteers, we have processed 22,000 gift shoe boxes in double quick time – which means we do not need evening openings this week (December 1, 2 or 3).

Also, Saturday December 5 is cancelled.

It looks like we may top 25,000 boxes donated this year, but there is still time to donate your box until December 4; please get in touch if you still have boxes to donate.

Many thanks to all – a fantastic effort!

Latest figures: estimated boxes in, 24,158; already sent to Kyrgyzstan, 8,300; already sent to Romania, 8,482; packed for Belarus so far, 5,824; total packed so far, 22,606; boxes still to check and pack, 1,552; estimated boxes still to come in, 500.

Tony McCarthy.

Vale estate agent in training for cycle challenge

by PHILIP IRWIN

A LOCAL estate agent is committed to spending many hours in the saddle next year as he trains for a charity cycle challenge that will take him up into the Rocky Mountains.

Philip Thomas of Herbert R Thomas (HRT) estate agents has for 17 years been secretary to the Glamorgan Grassland Society, which holds its monthly meetings at The Duke of Wellington in Cowbridge.

On relinquishing his position, he was presented with a cheque for £250 in appreciation of his services and the society asked that it be donated to the 'Ride the Rockies 2016' campaign to raise funds for Velindre Hospital.

Philip told The GEM: "I have put my name down to 'Ride the Rockies' to raise as much money as I can for Velindre Hospital in Cardiff, so I shall have to step up my training to be in shape by September next year.

"By then I will be a 50-year-old saddo in lycra!"

Philip does have a personal reason for helping Velindre. He explained: "Sadly, I lost my sister-in-law, Helen, last year, after she lost her hard-fought and courageous battle to cancer.

"She was a Cowbridge girl, one of five sisters from Pendoylan and she went to Cowbridge Comprehensive.

"Helen has left behind her 40-year-old husband, Nic, and their two super girls, Alice and Izzy.

Philip Thomas (left) receives the cheque from Adam Llewellyn, the chairman of the Glamorgan Grassland Society.

"She was treated in Velindre Hospital, who helped her in her fight and provided the most outstanding care and support.

"Her husband, Nic, has done this year's Iron Man in Tenby and I will be joining him, and one of Helen's brothers-in-law, on the 400 km ride across The Rockies from Canmore to Jasper."

Philip has been getting some training in this year, joining Nic for the cycle part of his triathlons.

Philip said: "I joined Nic in his preparation for the Iron Man, and also on the Monmouth Challenge (62 miles), Velothon (84 miles), and the Wales Long Weekend in Tenby (112 miles).

"It is our intention to do further rides in 2016, including the Cardiff Half Marathon and the Cardiff Velothon to prepare for The Rockies and to raise as much money as possible."

To support Philip's cause, log on to Just Donate at https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/philipthomas1.

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
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Macduff and his loyal army.

Nate as a well-protected Macbeth.

Banquo (Lucy) protected by Fleance (Jacob).

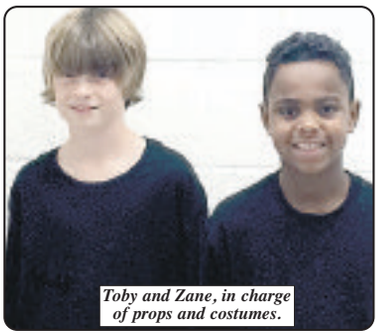
Duncan (King of Scotland) with faithful servants Malcolm and a Yound Siward.

The narrators: Madeline, Ben and Mared.

Macbeth and Lady Macbeth.

The three witches; Sofia, Summer and Ieuan.

Madeline, Grace and Alex as apparitions.



Toby and Zane, in charge of props and costumes.

RECENTLY, in the Sherman Theatre, Cardiff, class-4 at St Nicholas C/W Primary produced a passionate and expressive performance of *Macbeth*, as part of this year's Shakespeare for Schools Festival.

A quick tour around the theatre was followed by technical rehearsal on stage, led by two of our own pupils, Madison and Henry.

Out of the four schools (St Nicholas, Albert Primary, Ysgol Sant Barac and Dinas Powys Primary) performing on the night, St Nicholas was first on stage.

Nerves increased as the theatre filled to capacity, until it finally came time to perform. The wonderful performance itself was led by Nate Palmer and Olivia Goodfellow as Macbeth and Lady Macbeth and Mackenzie Parsons as Macduff.

This was complemented by powerful performances by every single actor; narrators Mared, Ben and Madison recited the story with clear expression.

An enormous thank you to all the children for performing and behaving so brilliantly! Also, congratulations to Mr Jones and his team of teacher directors for putting the whole performance together.

Mrs Wallis, one of teacher directors, added: "Wow – what an incredible performance the children gave, it made us staff very proud."

Report by school councillors Madeline, Jacob and Ben

Quotes from youngsters involved in the performance:

*"It was really special to see all our parents and the other teachers from school who came to cheer us on." – **Ben Wade**.*

"It was amazing and I am just getting over the fact that we actually did it." – Madeline Holmes.

*"Thank you to all the children for making that night so special." – **Grace Shelbourne**.*

*"Thank you everyone came to watch and all the children that came we wouldn't have done it without any of you, I had the best time ever." – **Summer Holmes**.*

JD

Flower arranging explained

AT the November meeting of Colwinston & Llysworney WI Diana Little talked members through the intricacies of flower arranging; every member made a Christmas table arrangement with greenery, candles, flowers and pine cones.

Afterwards, the trip to Abbey Cwm Hir was discussed, as was the December Christmas dinner in the Sycamore Tree Inn Colwinston.

New members and visitors are always welcome at the meetings at 7.30pm in the village hall on the second Monday of each month.

The photo shows members with their arrangements.

ABOVE: Members display their festive creation.

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Roman coins and medieval rings declared treasure

SELECTED COINS FROM THE WICK HOARD.
Photo by Portable Antiquities Scheme.

A HOARD of Roman silver coins and two medieval finger rings have been declared as treasure by HM Coroner for Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan.

The Roman silver coins were discovered by Mr Richard Annear and Mr John Player while metal detecting in a field at Wick in the Vale of Glamorgan on December 13, 2014.

The coins were found partly scattered by previous ploughing and the finders left the undisturbed portion in the ground before reporting the finds to Mark Lodwick, co-ordinator of the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Wales (PAS Cymru) and archaeological curators at Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales.

This allowed museum staff to lift it intact for detailed excavation in the museum laboratory.

The find comprises 91 Roman silver denarii (coins) which were buried in a locally-made pot. The coins date from the period of Emperor Nero (AD 54-68) to Marcus Aurelius (161-80) and the latest coin was struck in 163-4; 14 emperors and empresses are represented. The hoard also contained three coins issued by Mark Antony in 31 BC.

Edward Besly, numismatist at Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales said: "Each coin represents about a day's pay at the time, so the hoard represents a significant sum.

"The hoard's find spot is only a mile (1.6 km) as the crow flies from that of another second century silver hoard found at Monknash in 2000, which comprised 103 denarii, buried a little earlier, around 150.

"Together, the hoards point to a prosperous coin-using economy in the area in the middle of the second century."

The two medieval rings were found in Llancarfan in the Vale of Glamorgan by Mr David Harrison in December 2013.

The silver finger ring in the form of a decorated band, tapering away from bezel. The decoration, which extends all along the external face, has been first engraved and then inlaid with niello (now only partially preserved, but represented by dark material in parts of the engraved design). The ring is of 12th century date. Parallels include one from the Lark Hill hoard, Worcester (buried c. 1173-4).

The gold decorative ring has a repeating pattern of alternating half-flowers filling triangular panels, separated by a deep zig-zag moulding and considered to be of the late 15th century.

Dr Mark Redknap from the Department of History and Archaeology, National Museum Wales, said: 'These are finger rings from different centuries; one 12th century and the other 15th century, reflecting different traditions of fine metalworking, which are important indicators of changing fashions in south Wales during the medieval period'.

Additional finds from the area declared treasure today include: a 15-16th century silver pendant and a 17th century silver gilt finger ring from Penllyn, Vale of Glamorgan; a 15th-16th century silver finger ring from Llancarfan; a 13th-14th century silver brooch from Llancarfan; an early 18th century gold finger ring from Rhoose; a late Bronze Age hoard from Penllyn and a late Bronze Age hoard from Pentyrch, Cardiff.

The Wick hoard, partially excavated in the laboratory.

The treasure items will be acquired by Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales supported by grant funding provided through the Saving Treasures; Telling Stories Heritage Lottery funded project.

Great archaeological discoveries from around the world and the big screen will be on display in a major new exhibition Treasures: Adventures in Archaeology at National Museum Cardiff from January 26 – October 30.

To celebrate 2016, Year of Adventure in Wales, the Museum will host extraordinary gems from popular culture including the hat, whip and jacket of Indiana Jones, crystal skulls and Inca Gold alongside early finds such as Egyptian Mummies.

'Let us all shop around on Small Business Saturday'

WHERE would we be without small businesses? The Vale of Glamorgan would look vastly different if we didn't have such a diverse range of enterprises that have been nurtured and grown.

They add colour and flavour to our high streets, and provide gainful employment to many people tucked away on an industrial estate near you. That is why I am giving my full backing to Small Business Saturday this weekend.

With 5.4 million businesses across Great Britain providing one in every two jobs in the private sector, it is a part of our economy that is absolutely vital in all of our futures.

That is why I spent a couple of days last week visiting over one hundred small businesses across the Vale – you can see every shop pictured on my Facebook page. I know many of the businesses well, but it was fascinating to meet the new – as the old saying goes – butcher, baker and candlestick makers at the very heart of our communities.

The combination of established and new shops in the towns I visited was very reassuring. From the pint-sized Plug coffee shop in Dinas Powys, everyone's favourite Pet Shop on Park Crescent in Barry, a brand new clothes shop in Cowbridge run by Bethan Jones to the award-winning toy store in Llantwit Major – we have so much to offer in the Vale.

Vale MP **Alun Cairns** reports to GEM readers

We don't have to automatically travel to Cardiff to get the goods and services that are available locally. The one hundred shops I visited will all be ready with a welcoming smile this Saturday, on one of the busiest shopping days of the year.

I am delighted to see my colleague, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills Sajid Javid, encouraging shoppers to use their local high streets again this year.

My support for our small businesses is why the issue over car parking charges in Barry and Cowbridge has become such a major talking point. I am pleased to see the strategic thinking now being shown by the leader of the Vale Council, Coun Neil Moore to understand the damage that charging would do to our towns.

I hope any uncertainty over plans can be clarified as quickly as possible. Leaving the issue of potential charges hanging over our towns is having a detrimental impact.

Shops will remain empty, as the next generation of small business operators will hold off with their big idea until they know that Holton Road and Cowbridge High Street will remain an attractive place to shop, eat or drink.

The weather hasn't been particularly kind in November for many of the events that are coordinated by local traders; but the King Square and High Street Christmas light switch-on events in Barry were excellent as always, and the Cowbridge Reindeer Parade was packed.

A thriving high street needs these events, but importantly, these events also need a thriving high street. If you are out and about this weekend, enjoy the Christmas lights, and why not visit your local shops for Small Business Saturday?

Company sponsors Carols in the Castle

Dad thanks understanding employer for Christmas gift to the Ty Hafan hospice

A father-of-two whose son has a life-limiting condition, has thanked his employer for giving an early Christmas gift to the hospice that cares for his family.

Ian Reiffer, operations assurance manager at Arriva Trains Wales, regularly attends the Tŷ Hafan children's hospice in Sully with his son Lewis, 16, who was diagnosed with a severe form of epilepsy when he was just a few months old.

As part of an ongoing partnership, Ian's employer, Arriva Trains Wales, is sponsoring Tŷ Hafan's Carols at the Castle concert at Cardiff Castle on November 26.

Ian said: "Lewis has Lennox Gastaut Syndrome. He was developing well as a baby, then when he was four months old he started having small seizures.

"After lots of tests, the consultant told us the spasms were very serious and Lewis had a severe form of epilepsy, which had caused damage to his brain.

ABOVE: Lewis with rugby star Ryan Jones at an event organised by Tŷ Hafan.

"Now Lewis is 16 but mentally he's probably one or two years old. He can't communicate but he's a lovely kid, very happy.

"We tend to have a long weekend break at Tŷ Hafan. It's great – Lewis lights up every time he goes there. He loves the sensory play room and the pool. His sister Lauryn used to go to the siblings' group every month but she's got a very busy schedule these days!"

For the last few years, Ian and his colleagues have organised a bike ride from Holyhead to Cardiff, to raise money for Tŷ Hafan, raising £2,500 this year. So he was thrilled to learn that his bosses had agreed to sponsor this year's carol concert.

"It's fantastic. I'm really chuffed that we've got to this stage. It started with the bike rides and we've been building the relationship with Tŷ Hafan since then.

"It's an important part of the community and community work is really important to us at Arriva. The support I get from my employer is unreal. It's a lifeline really. I couldn't wish for a better company.

" If the school phones me to say Lewis isn't well, I can just go – no questions asked. They understand."

Tŷ Hafan business and community fundraiser, Eleanor Leyshon, said: "We're thrilled that Arriva Trains Wales has kindly chosen to sponsor Carols in the Castle.

"We can't wait to kick-start the festive season with our carol concert and are looking forward to further developing our relationship with Arriva over the next year."

Rob Philips, finance director for Arriva Trains Wales, said: "We are delighted to be able to support such a good local charity this Christmas.

"With lots of Arriva Trains Wales staff attending the Christmas concert too – it's a perfect way to get us all in the Christmas mood!"

Details for Carols in the Castle are available at www.tyhafan.org.

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Homework Club celebrates Solid Foundations!

Aberthaw Cement plant manager Chris Bradbury presents Dylan James with his award.

RHOOSE Homework Club – now renamed Solid Foundations – has held its annual awards ceremony, recognising the efforts of Vale children to improve their skills and to help them reach their full potential.

It is run by volunteers and holds English and maths support sessions, while helping older family members with adult learning support.

Tarmac's Aberthaw Cement Plant supported the awards evening, where some 65 awards were presented.

A founder member, Cath Watkins, said: "It's fantastic to see where the club has come to over three years. We started supporting a handful of local children in Rhoose with specific learning difficulties and now we support over 90 children and adults across the Vale."

A special presentation of the Tarmac Child of the Year Award was made to 10-year-old Dylan James from Rhoose, who was presented with the award by Tarmac's Aberthaw Cement plant manager, Chris Bradbury.

"This is the first year of our community partnership with Solid Foundations and we are delighted to be part of such a wonderful organisation that is growing from strength to strength in its work to help local children and their families," he said.

"It was great to hear how well the children are doing and to present the Tarmac Child of the Year Award to Dylan. He won the award for his hard work in improving his maths and English - always asking for extra work and also always ready to help other children.

"He helps out with anything that needs doing at the club and always does it with a smile – very well deserved, Dylan."

Solid Foundations meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays during school term time at the Rhoose Community Centre.

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www.bridgend-today.co.uk
www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

TV presenter hosts Leekes' charity auction

THE TV presenter and antiques dealer Paul Martin will be appearing at the Llantrisant store of Leekes, to host a charity auction in aid of the NSPCC tonight, December 3 from 6pm - 9pm with Paul scheduled from 7pm.

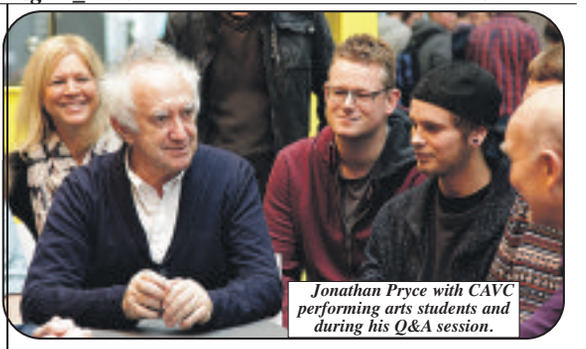
As part of the auction, a selection of high and low value items, donated by suppliers of Leekes, will be going under the hammer for this great cause.

This includes a Hypnos single divan bed, a Caple wine cabinet and a selection of homewares from leading brands including Le Creuset and Dyson.

Peter Mundell, store manager at Leekes Llantrisant, said: "It's great to be welcoming such a well-known TV personality to our store and one so used to the auction environment.

"We hope that, with his experience, we will generate plenty of offers from our customers to provide funds for our nominated charity, the NSPCC."

TV presenter and antiques dealer Paul Martin will be hosting the Leekes auction in aid of the NSPCC.



Jonathan Pryce with CAVC performing arts students and during his Q&A session.

Welsh star's journey from Holywell to Hollywood

WELSH movie star, Jonathan Pryce, recently visited the Cardiff and Vale College to give a talk to performing arts students describing his journey from Holywell to Hollywood.

Pryce, who has appeared in numerous movies including *Brazil, Tomorrow Never Dies* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*, recently playing the High Sparrow in *Game of Thrones*, took part in a Q&A session. The session was organised by Into Film and hosted by Bafta Cymru award winning actor/director Celyn Jones.

Addressing an audience of 50 CAVC performing arts students and a further 50 from local schools, the actor talked about growing up in north Wales and getting into theatre.

Pryce also delivered an entertaining series of anecdotes about his life on stage and screen, and working with household names such as Terry Gilliam, Al Pacino and Martin Scorsese.

"You've got to work," Pryce told the next generation of Welsh talent. "Education does matter and it helps you build your craft. After all, if you cannot read a script, what can you do?"

JOIN AGE CONNECTS FOR CHRISTMAS LUNCH!

RECOGNISING that for many, it is a time that reinforces feelings of loneliness, on December 25 Age Connects Cardiff and the Vale, alongside Glamorgan Voluntary Services are putting on a lunch at Bethel Baptist Church in Llantwit Major.

Starting at 12pm with a harpist to greet you on arrival, there will be a three-course meal, with festive carols, a visit from Father Christmas, finishing with the traditional Queen's speech and a glass of bubbly.

They can also provide transport.

"There are no costs involved, we just want you to come and enjoy lunch with us on Christmas Day; the only requirement is that you are over 60, and would otherwise be on your own. Places are limited," a spokesman said.

For further information, contact** jane.platts@ageconnectscardiff.org.uk **or call Jane Platts on 01446 795631.

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It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

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Cloudy2Clear service the Vale, Bridgend, RCT and Porthcawl areas and Phil is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. *'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'*

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PHOTO CLUB'S TRIBUTE TO 'GENTLEMAN TONY'

TONY LEADBITTER.

IT is with great sadness that this month the Vale Photographic Club reports the passing of one of its most senior members – Tony Leadbitter.

Tony had been a keen and active supporter of the club for longer than any of us can recollect. He also worked as a photographer for The GEM during his retirement, happy to use his skills for the good of the community.

His enthusiasm was clear, and consistently provided encouragement and inspiration to all, no matter what their ability. He will be greatly missed.

Longstanding friend and member of the club, Mike Baker, has also paid this tribute:

"I first met Tony through his son's cycle shop in Cowbridge, but it didn't take long to find that we had some common interests. They were Hi-Fi and photography and we often spoke at length on each topic.

"This was about 25 years ago, and gradually I found out more about his own career, which took him from the Post Office, as it was then, into GCHQ and then onward to become managing director of Woolsey Electronics.

"Tony was a gentleman, in all senses of the word. He was a judge on the Welsh photographic circuit and to my knowledge, was never destructively critical of our photographic efforts; always giving praise and encouragement whenever possible.

"In recent years, he suffered from several health problems, but nevertheless continued to join us at our Friday meetings in Ystradowen for as long as he possibly could – usually with the help of his daughter, Fiona, and also club member Jim Thomas. He will be missed by all who knew him."

For information about the club, please visit the website at www.vale-photographic-club.co.uk. The club meets every Friday from September to July at 7.15pm in the Ystradowen village hall.

Andrew Coleman

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Celebrating 27 Years

Students' open a 'Secret House' on college site

ABOVE: Tutor Pam Scott, students Sophia Aspin, Samuel Halendby-Robertson, and Matthew Bowley; tutor Helen McAndrew, head of independent living skills Tom Snelgrove and skills for progression tutor Lauren Rowe.

STUDENTS on the preparation for work and life skills courses at Cardiff and Vale College recently organised a special opening party for Ty Cudd (Secret House).

The students on the skills for progression course will now be based at Ty Cudd, which was once a caretaker's bungalow on the Colcot Road site in Barry.

It aims to help develop personal and social skills alongside providing a grounding for transition to Level-1 vocational study for learners who require more support.

A series of improvements has been carried out on the building, including a kitchen refit where students have catering lessons, the creation of a classroom with computers, a common room an d a quiet room.

The bungalow's garden has also been given an make-over.

Event manager student Tristan Perratt said: "It's been a fun day. There was not much here before – we only had one computer. It's much better now."

GWANGWYN GRANT

READERS can get involved in a Wales-wide Gwangwyn arts festival for over-50s next May, by applying for a Gwangwyn community grant to organise an arts event, which could be painting or photography classes, music, drama or storytelling workshops or art exhibitions.

Visit *www.gwanwyn.org.uk* and click the 'Funding' tab. You can also request a pack by calling Age Cymru on 029 2043 1555.

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Ambulance Service exceeds its target

ALMOST 70 per cent of people with life-threatening illnesses and injuries, received an emergency response within eight minutes during the first month of a year-long pilot to test changes to the Welsh Ambulance Service, new figures published reveal.

A third of people (34.7 per cent) received a response within just four minutes, the figures show.

The figures for October – the first month of the new clinical response model – show the Welsh Ambulance Service has met and exceeded the target that 65 per cent of responses to the most life-threatening emergencies should arrive within eight minutes.

A total of 68.7 per cent red calls were responded to within eight minutes. The average response time to this type of call was five minutes and 44 seconds.

The figures show: The Welsh Ambulance service received 38,155 emergency calls in October 2015, an average of 1,231 a day.

Of these, 1,877 (5 per cent) were immediately life-threatening (red) emergency calls; 68.7 per cent (1,267) responses arrived within eight minutes, above the target of 65 per cent. 74 per cent of red calls were responded to in nine minutes; 78.9 per cent within 10 minutes.

Deputy Health Minister Vaughan Gething said: "The figures published today show the new system is working, with nearly 70 per cent of the most immediately life-threatening calls to the Welsh Ambulance Service receiving a response within eight minutes.

"I want to pay tribute to the ambulance service's hard-working frontline clinicians, volunteer first responders and clinical contact centre staff for their dedication and commitment.

"Their work embracing the new clinical response model is crucial to delivering better outcomes for patients."

Tracey Myhill, chief executive of the Welsh Ambulance Service, said: "We're grateful to staff for embracing this new way of working, and to the people of Wales for their patience and understanding while we continue to improve."

Christmas at Dyffryn House

THE Vale is invited to step back in time with the National Trust and enjoy a traditional Christmas with all the trappings.

At Dyffryn Gardens visitors can not only expect the house and gardens to be dressed to festive perfection, but can really get into the spirit at a series of carol concerts taking place throughout the month (December 4, 11 and 18, 7pm).

Singing is optional but with mince pies and a glass of bubbly and the beautifully decorated Great Hall as the backdrop, it will be enough to put even the biggest Scrooge among us in the Christmas mood.

Father Christmas will be stopping by to meet little ones and give them a very special gift chosen just for them (December 5 /6 and 12/13).

For more information about National Trust Wales events, visit www.nationaltrust.org.uk/days-out.

Amelia Trust's marquee fair a festive success

THE Amelia Trust Farm's Christmas fair was held at the Cottrell Park Golf Resort's all-weather marquee in a festive atmosphere, as shoppers browsed a wide range of crafts and goods.

Youngsters were kept entertained by animals from the Nearly Wild Show and Vale Owls.

There was a visit from Father Christmas and children were able to have a go at cake decorating, Christmas crafts and also skipping rope making with the Cowbridge Scout Group.

Visitors were treated to a live performance of festive songs and carols by Cathays Methodist Community Choir, while they tucked into homemade cakes and mince pies made and served by volunteers of the Amelia Trust Farm.

The day was a huge success and raised much-needed funds to enable the farm to continue its work supporting disadvantaged and vulnerable young people. A big thank you goes out to everyone who supported the event.

Volunteers sought

Amelia Trust is currently recruiting for volunteers to join its general maintenance, administration and weekend animal care teams.

***To find out more, contact Jo Whitfield on 01446 782030, or email** jow@ameliatrust.org.uk*

JW

Lucky tickets!

IF anyone has a strip of green raffle tickets numbered 66-70; you have won a prize...

Bring the tickets to the office at Ysgol Iolo Morgannwg, Barri.

The juniors' Christmas service will be held on December 15 and 16 at Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge.

OS oes gan unrhyw un stribed tocynnau rafflgwyrdd rhif 66-70; mae gwobr ar gael. Dewch a'r tocynnau i'r swyddfa.

Cynhelir gwasanaeth yr adran iau ar foreau'r 15 a'r 16 o Ragfyr yn Eglwys y Groes Sanctaidd Y Bont-Faen.

Lib Dem leader backs Marie Curie campaign

LEADER of the Welsh Liberal Democrats, Kirsty Williams AM, is backing a Marie Curie campaign calling for the right for everyone to have palliative care when they need it.

Marie Curie lead nurse Carolyn Gent gives Kirsty Williams AM a tour of the hospice.

On a visit to Penarth on November 27, she said: "It was a privilege to be able to attend the Marie Curie hospice today and learn more about the work of this important charity.

"From speaking to patients and their families, it was clear that the charity's staff, both in the hospice and out in the community, provide truly outstanding care and support for people living with a terminal illness.

"I am happy to support the charity's campaign to ensure that people who need palliative care services don't miss out at the time when they need that care the most."

The campaign comes as Marie Curie revealed that half of people over the age of 50 in Wales, of whom there are 1.2 million, are not confident that they will get the care they need towards the end of their life.

One in four people each year who need palliative care, miss out on it because their needs are not recognised and they are not referred on to the right services.

Marie Curie is calling on the Welsh Government to build on the good work already done to improve access to high quality palliative and end of life care for everyone with a terminal illness.

If you, or someone you're close to, has a terminal illness, call the Marie Curie Support Line on 0800 090 2309, Monday to Friday, from 9am to 5pm; or visit mariecurie.org.uk/help

You can also talk to people in a similar situation in the Marie Curie community.

Age Connects fair a success

AGE Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop held a very successful Christmas fayre at the Civic Offices opened by the Mayor of the Vale, Coun Fred Johnson.

A prize draw had over 20 prizes donated by local businesses, including Manor House, New Theatre, Head Office hairdressers, Morrisons, Sainsbury's, Macdonalds, and Roy's Toys.

The fair raised £513.33, all of which will be used for the benefit of the Age Connects Senior Health Shop in Barry.

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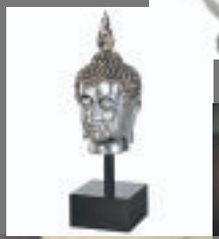

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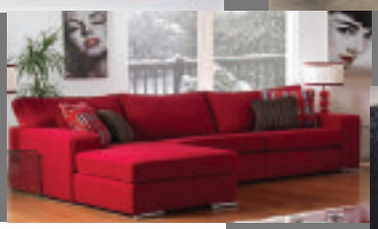

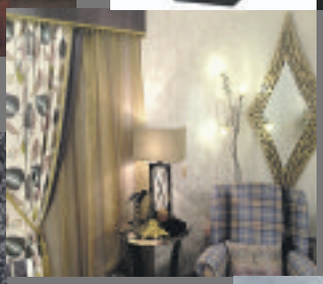

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Like

Rotary competition for young singers tests eminent judges

ABOVE: the winner, Charlotte Bonney.

The Rotary Young Vocalist singers.

RIGHT: Iona Jones, David Rogers and Dyfed Wyn Jones.

THE club and area Rotary Young Vocalist competition was held in Cowbridge Comprehensive School on the evening of Thursday, November 26.

This annual event, organised by Llantwit Major Rotary club, showcases fabulous young local talent and this year we were joined by competitors sponsored by the Neath and Swansea Valley Rotary clubs in what proved to be a wonderful evening's entertainment.

Third prizewinner was Annie Phillips, a student at Cefn Saeson School, Neath, who sang 'Cry Me a River' by Arthur Hamilton, followed by 'Once Upon a Dream' from the musical *Jekyll and Hyde*.

The second prize went to Trystan Watkins, who sang 'Amarillo Mia Bella' by Caccini and 'The Sky Above the Roof' by Vaughan Williams. Trystan is a student at Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera and was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Swansea Valley.

The first prize went to Cowbridge Comprehensive student, Charlotte Bonney, who sang two jazz standards with great feeling and skill, 'My Funny Valentine' by Rodgers and Hart; followed by 'Take the A Train' by Billy Strayhorn.

We were fortunate to have two eminent professional singers as judges: Iona Jones, the well-known soprano who is also honorary president of Cowbridge Male Voice Choir. Dyfed Wyn Jones is an experienced baritone who often sings with the Welsh National Opera.

They had the difficult task of choosing the three winners, and provided valuable feedback for each of the 15 contestants.

Llantwit Major Rotary club president, Dr David Rogers, commended the contestants on their talent and wished first prizewinner Charlotte Bonney luck in the District 1150 final, which will be held in Cowbridge Comprehensive on Saturday, February 27.

This district includes clubs from across south and mid Wales. **TC**

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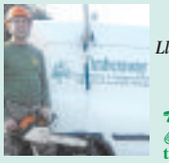

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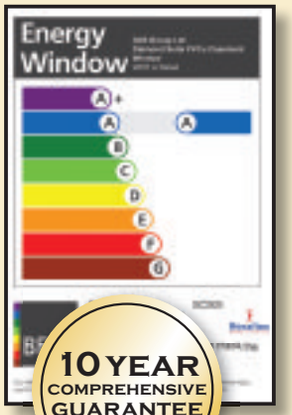

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The cast of Aladdin at the New Theatre.

THE New Theatre will follow up last year's successful panto *Cinderella* with *Aladdin*, from December 12 to January 17.

Joining last year's record-breaking cast is Ian 'H' Watkins from Steps, who plays Aladdin, along with actor and model Linda Lusardi, who plays the Slave of the Ring.

Also returning will be comedians and panto veterans Mike Doyle (as Widow Twankey) and Andy Jones (as Wishee Washee).

Sam Kane, is not only playing ultimate pantomime baddie Abanazar, but he directs the production too.

Welsh rugby legend Gareth Thomas makes only his second panto appearance as the Genie of the Lamp. The Princess is played by Holly Bluett.

Tickets (£10.50 to £31) from box office 02920 878889 or book online www.newtheatrecardiff.co.uk.

Spielberg's Cold War spy thriller is a classy and engaging affair...

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

GIVEN his strong work ethic, it seems strange to think that Steven Spielberg's last film, *Lincoln*, was nearly three years ago.

While the 'Berg has plenty on his slate in the future (including a take on Roald Dahl's *The BFG*), his current film sees him re-team with Tom Hanks for the third time in *Bridge of Spies*.

A true story, it sees Hanks play James B Donovan, an American lawyer hired to defend Rudolf Abel (Mark Rylance), a Soviet spy who has been caught. While Donovan was initially hired in order to ensure Abel received a fair trial, their relationship deepens, and when American pilot Francis Gary Powers (Austin Stowell) is shot down over Russia, Donovan is recruited to arrange an exchange for Powers with Abel returning home – an exchange that doesn't go as smoothly as hoped...

It seems like something of a foregone conclusion to cast Tom Hanks as a wholly decent American, concerned with doing the morally right thing rather than the perceived right thing, even when it comes at a cost to both him and his family.

However, just because it's a foregone conclusion doesn't mean that the end performance, and indeed product, is anything less than stellar, and so it applies to *Bridge of Spies*, a film that trades on Hanks' (and to some degree Steven Spielberg's) honour and nobility and coalesces into an insightful and powerful film.

It's essentially two separate stories tied in together – the opening half of the film sees Hanks' Donovan coerced into defending Abel despite it being the 'un-American' thing to do; despite doing what's right and just, Donovan discovers that his stand has consequences.

The second half sees Powers shot down over Russia and Donovan brought into the fold to negotiate his release in return for Abel's release and return to the Soviets – one of many wrinkles being that the swap has to take place in East Berlin, and that an American student has found himself captured and held prisoner at the same time.

It feels a little tacked together, Donovan and Abel the bridges between the stories, but within are some deeply tense and moving sequences; as the script subtly indicates, the notion of doing the right thing applies even when other people believe you are doing the wrong thing, and it's the conviction of your beliefs, and how hard you cling onto them even in the face of extreme adversity, that showcases your character.

There are even a few idiosyncratic notes, supplied by the Coen brothers, which deepen and bring the humanity out in the story even more.

This is as close as Hanks may get to play Atticus Finch, but while the similarities between that fictional character and the non-fictional Donovan are perhaps played up for the screen, Hanks' stoic turn is exceptional, the actor rooting the character as a believable one, doing what he feels is right.

It is an archetype in the Hanks canon certainly, but it doesn't lessen the impact of his powerful performance at all.

Opposite him is Mark Rylance, a man more likely to be found on stage rather than screen – although, on the basis of his work here, that may no longer apply as Rylance is an incredible counterpoint to Hanks, their onscreen chemistry well played as the actor brings incredible nuance to Abel, like Donovan a man doing what he believed was right, for his country.

The film pivots on their relationship, even when action switches to freeing Powers and Abel is relegated to occasional cutaway scenes – the characters strongly written and even more strongly portrayed, with an unshowy supporting cast dripping with pedigree solidifying the foundations.

For Spielberg, this mines a similar ground to *Lincoln* in a roundabout way – a man doing what he feels is right and damn the consequences, despite being acutely aware of them – and it follows that film's dialogue-heavy tone.

There are occasional sequences of drama where Spielberg cuts loose (the capture of Abel, a horrifying glimpse into the lengths people went to get over the wall, a tension-filled climax) but his focus is on telling the story, which he does incredibly well.

Quite whether such a prestigious project will get the overwhelming love it deserves – particularly come awards season – will depend on how you view the achievement of *Bridge of Spies*; you could argue that it's Hanks and Spielberg delivering what they're good at – but such skilled filmmaking and strong acting should never be taken for granted.

VERDICT – A gripping, emotionally-involving spy thriller, *Bridge of Spies* sees the all-American Tom Hanks essay an all-American hero in a stylishly shot and executed Steven Spielberg film. With an outstanding turn from Mark Rylance, it is a truly impressive film that more than stands up to the reputations of those involved. Recommended.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Schindler's List* (1993), *Unbroken* (2014).

Santa Specials at Barry station

SANTA'S coming to the Barry Island Tourist Railway on the weekends of December 12 to 13 and 19 to 20.

The railway is gearing up to receive him and have commissioned their steam locomotive *Susan*, built in 1952, to haul the Santa Special trains which will run on each of the days at 11.45am, 1.30pm, 2.30pm and 3.30pm.

Booking is advisable as the trains are already filling up fast, but there are still some seats available on December 12 and 13. To book, call Kathryn on 02920 511019.

John Buxton, managing director of the railway said: "Visiting the Barry Tourist Railway is a great way to see Santa; there is no queuing as Santa visits every child on the train at their seat and gives each one a quality present. Adults can sample the mulled wine and mince pies afterwards."

There will vintage and wartime Christmas displays at Barry Island station too and craft stalls on some days.

For more information contact John Buxton, Barry Tourist Railway on 01446 748816; john.buxton@cambriantransport.com.

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BLOODWISE Cardiff will hold a concert on Saturday, December 12 at 7pm at The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, Cardiff.

Cowbridge Male Voice Choir, Cantorion Pontyclun Ladies' Choir and the Nidus Children's Choir will all feature and every penny raised will fund groundbreaking blood cancer research and vital patient support.

For more information go to bloodwise.org.uk/event-challenges/do-anything-go-event/wales/cardiff-carol-concert or call the box office on 02920 342854.

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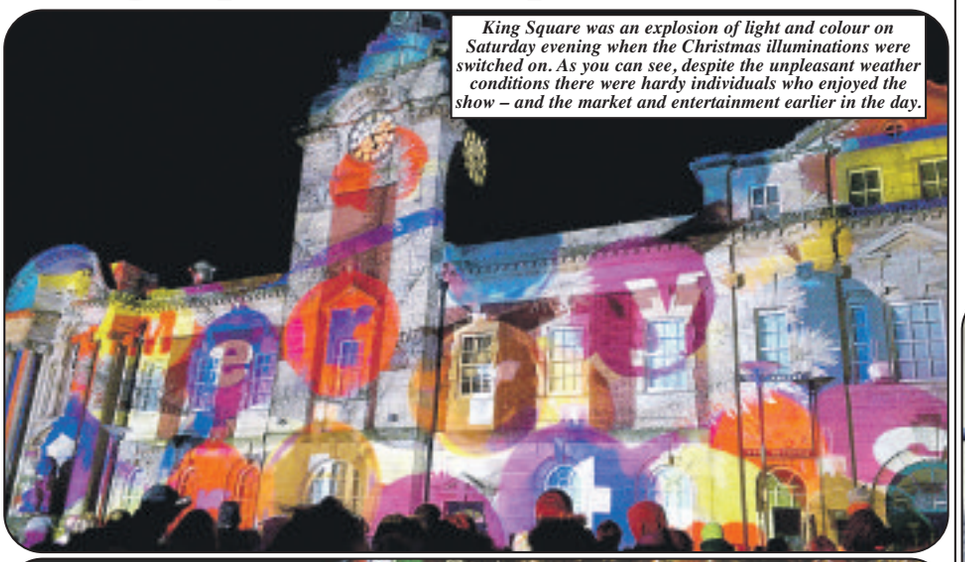
King Square is lit up for Christmas



King Square was an explosion of light and colour on Saturday evening when the Christmas illuminations were switched on. As you can see, despite the unpleasant weather conditions there were hardy individuals who enjoyed the show – and the market and entertainment earlier in the day.

Nancy is the special guest at her school – 80 years after starting there!

ABOVE: Nancy opens the new classrooms at Llangan Primary School.

by PHILIP IRWIN

THE special guest at Llangan Primary School last week was a local lady who was a pupil there – over 80 years ago!

The occasion was the much anticipated grand opening of a new classroom base, and it was only fitting that a former pupil (and great friend of the school), Mrs Nancy Davidge was invited to perform the grand opening.

She said: "I was a pupil at Llangan over 80 years ago and in that time I have seen the school develop in so many different ways."

During the summer holidays the school underwent a significant facelift as a new and enlarged kitchen was built, a new air-conditioned double classroom was erected and an existing classroom was refurbished, containing a kitchen for the children, new windows, flooring and toilets to boot!

The new classrooms are a welcome addition to the school which has for a number of years been struggling to 'make do and mend' the pre-existing building.

The headteacher, Mr Steve Williams, said: "The school can now boast a state-of-the-art classroom base which will ensure that the needs of pupils and staff are met for future generations of Llangan children.

"The Vale Council's catering department must also be commended for investing in a new kitchen at Llangan. This means that, for the first time in many years, children, staff and visitors can now enjoy freshly prepared, delicious and nutritious food cooked on site by Mrs Paula Meek, the new school cook in charge.

"The children have given the meals a huge thumbs up. Nearly as many pupils now choose to have a school meal per day as were ordered in a week before the new kitchen was built."

As Mr Williams leaves Llangan to take up a new post as headteacher of Sully Primary School, he would like to thank the pupils, parents, staff and governing body for their support and patience while the building work was completed.

He added: "I am proud of having been part of the Llangan family as both deputy headteacher and now headteacher.

"I hope that future generations of pupils and staff enjoy the fantastic facilities available to them and continue to offer a top-rate education for the children in the community."

READERS' LETTERS

Monster block!

ABOVE: The road to nowhere!

THIS photograph was taken at The Rise, Ystradowen, where enormous lorries arrive daily blocking the road, driving over the pavements.

How planning was given to such a narrow access to a housing estate of 40 – 50 houses, I cannot fathom.

The north facing slope of this road will freeze over before long, and one or more of these monstrous vehicles is going to finish up in somebody's garden. Or house!

William R Turner, Ystradowen.

Council, too, fought for Post Office

I AM sure that all of us in Cowbridge will be delighted to see the new post office due open on December 9 – and a big thank you to all who have worked hard to achieve this.

I want you to know that the Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council, too, was very involved in working hard for this result.

We had the Post Office people come to talk to us acbout their difficulties and we have been in regular touch with them since April 2014. Our Town Clerk, Mr Andrew Davies, has written to them on numerous occasions – and has answered their queries many times – so our sincere thanks to him for all his efforts.

Coun Gwen Baty, Cowbridge.

LALESTON CELEBRATION

SOROPTIMIST International Bridgend are holding a 'Christmas Celebration' at 6pm, Wednesday, on December 9, in St David's Church, Laleston, with carols and readings featuring Ogmore Vale Male Voice Choir. All are welcome.

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SANTA AND HIS REINDEER THRILL THE CROWDS AT ANNUAL CHRISTMAS EVENT

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

E-Mail: ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
Telephone 07791 228684
www.ffotoimage.co.uk

THE Cowbridge Reindeer Parade took place on Sunday, November 29, and drew large crowds to the town.

It serves as the traders' big 'thank you' to the public for its support throughout the year.

As you can see, Glyn Evans was on hand to capture some precious memories.

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MENTER IAITH BRO MORGANNWG

LLAIS LLEOL – Dr Dylan Jones

WEDI dros 15 mlynedd fel Pennaeth Ysgol Gyfun Bro Morgannwg, a'n fwy diweddar yr ysgol 3-19 oed, bydd Dr Dylan Jones yn ffarwelio â'r ysgol ar ddiwedd y mis er mwyn dechrau ar ei swydd newydd ym Mhrifysgol y Drindod Dewi Sant yn y Flwyddyn Newydd.

Pa ardal o'r Fro ydych chi'n byw, ac ers pryd ydych chi wedi bod yn byw yno?

Symudodd Glenda a fi i'r Bontfaen ym mis Hydref 1987 yn fuan wedi i ni briodi ac yna fe fuodd y teulu'n byw yn Ystradowen am gyfnod ac erbyn hyn yn Nhresimwn.

Beth yw'r peth gorau am fyw yn y Fro?

Y gymuned a hefyd y cyfle i fyw yn y wlad, yn agos at y môr, ac o fewn cyrraedd i Gaerdydd heb fod yn rhy agos. Mae'n braf gadael y ddinas tu ôl i chi a medru mwynhau gwyrddni'r ardal. Mae'r gorau o sawl byd gennym ni.

Rhowch 5 gair i ddisgrifio'r Fro.

Gwyrdd, cymunedol, heddychlon, amrywiol, cartref.

Pa atgofion sy'n aros yn y cof fwyaf, o'ch cyfnod fel Pennaeth Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg?

Mae'n amhosib dewis un atgof ond mae cymaint o atgofion melys. Cefais fy atgoffa yn ddiweddar o siwrne'r ysgol ers ei sefydlu yn ystod fy nghinio ffarwel. Yr atgof orau pob tro yw gweld wynebau disgyblion wedi iddynt lwyddo ar rywbeth. Mae Ysgol y Fro yn le sbesial.

Ers dechrau yn eich rôl fel Pennaeth dros 15 mlynedd yn ôl, ydych chi'n gweld bod statws a phroffil y Gymraeg wedi cynyddu yn y Fro?

Do yn bendant ac rwy'n gobeithio bod yr ysgol wedi gwneud cyfraniad pwysig yn hyn o beth. Dechreuwyd YGBM gyda 123 o ddisgyblion. Cyn pen dim fe fydd 1500 yn yr ysgol. Mae dwy ysgol gynradd newydd wedi eu sefydlu yn ddiweddar. Beth sydd yn braf yw cael sgwrs ar strydoedd yr ardal gyda rhieni sydd wedi dewis danfon eu plant at ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg oherwydd llwyddiant ein hysgolion. Testun balchder oedd bod Eisteddfod 2012 wedi gwneud elw ac wedi bod yn llwyddiant yn wyneb sawl her gan gynnwys y gemau Olympaidd yn Llundain.

Dwedwch ychydig wrthom am eich swydd newydd.

Rwy'n mynd i fod yn Ddeon Addysg Prifysgol y Drindod Dewi Sant. Mae nifer o newidiadau ar droed ym myd hyfforddi athrawon a'r nod yw arwain y Gyfadran yn ystod y cyfnod yma. Rydym yn anelu at greu Athrofa Addysg Genedlaethol fydd yn ganolbwynt arbenigedd addysg a hyfforddiant i Gymru gyfan.

Beth ydy'ch diddordebau?

Chwaraeon - heb unrhyw amheuaeth!

Beth yw eich uchelgais am y ddeng mlynedd nesaf?

Fod yr Athrofa yn cael ei gweld fel un o'r goreuon yn y DU ac ein bod yn darparu athrawon o'r radd flaenaf. Mae pobl ifanc y wlad yn haeddu hyn ac mae ein hathrawon yn haeddu'r gefnogaeth broffesiynol orau posib.

Gyda phwy fasech chi'n hoffi cael pryd o fwyd?

Heblaw am un rhamantus gyda Glenda! – teulu a ffrindiau agos bob tro. Ym myd chwaraeon, John Charles. O fyd hanes, yr unigolyn o'r ddeunawfed ganrif oedd yn destun fy nhraethawd PhD, er mwyn i mi gael gweld pa mor gywir oedd fy namcaniaethau amdano! Os oeddwn yn gywir mae'n debygol na fyddwn yn rhoi ail wahoddiad am ginio iddo. Roedd yn ddyn diflas iawn!

Pwy ydych chi'n eu hedmygu?

Pobl sy'n llwyddo ac yn cyflawni heb fynd yn hunanbwysig. Heb ei fai heb ei eni.

Beth yw eich gwyliau delfrydol?

Nid oes un math arbennig. Ond gan amlaf dwi'n mwynhau orau pan rwyf yn gwneud rhywbeth. Nid wyf yn un da am eistedd i lawr wrth y pwll am oriau er fod hyn yn apelgar iawn ar hyn o bryd!

Lle yw eich hoff dafarn neu fwyty yn y Fro?

Bwyty - Arboreal a Market Place. Tafarn - lle bynnag mae'r hogia yn cytuno i fynd ar achlysuron arbennig. Sdim ots pa dafarn yr awn ni iddi da ni'n dueddol o droi'n hen ddynion blin yn rhamantu am yr oes a fu. Mae rhai yn waeth na'i gilydd cofiwch. Gan amla' y Vale neu'r Duke yn y Bontfaen sy'n gorfod ein croesawu.

Jambori yr Urdd

Ar Ddydd Mercher y 25ain o Dachwedd cafwyd diwrnod arbennig llawn hwyl a sbri yng Nghanolfan y Mileniwm

Daeth dros 2,000 o blant cynradd Caerdydd a'r Fro i sioe gan Gwenda Owen a'i band.

Roedd y Ganolfan yn llawn bwrlwm yn y bore a'r prynhawn gyda chanu a dawnsio gwych gan y plant a'r athrawon. O "joio yn y jambori", i "canu roc a rôl" daeth y clasuron i gyd mas ac roedd pawb wrth ei fodd yn canu a dawnsio.

Diolch o galon i Ganolfan y Mileniwm, Gwenda Owen a'r band, ond yn bennaf i bawb daeth i Jambori yr Urdd eleni.

Dyma rhai lluniau o'r digwyddiad.

Am fwy o wybodaeth am gweithgareddau'r Urdd cysylltwch a ni ar 02920 635684, neu Geraint@urdd.org

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gan EIRY PALFREY

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TAURUS:
Pobl sy'n hoffi moethusrwydd a'r gorau o bob peth. Prynwch lun gwreiddiol mewn olew, planhigyn neu flodau – byddai unrhyw beth i'r ardd yn plesio. Gemau, tlysau, mwclis. Bwydydd moethus fel pate de foie gras, pwdin plwm o Harrods, neu botel o Bort (vintage). Mae gydan nhw wendid am siocledi – drud. Hoff liw: glas, pinc.

GEMINI:
Pobl brysur, amryddawn sy'n haeddu anrheg i hwyluso eu bywyd hectic. Dyma gyfathrebwyr y sidydd a mi fydden nhw wrth eu bodd yn cael tabled neu iphone 6, neu beiriant karaoke...neu falle sebon ar siâp meicroffon iddyn nhw gael canu yn y bath. Eu hoff liw yw melyn.

CANCER:
Mae rhain wrth eu bodd yn gofalu am bethau – ci, cath, tedi bêr neu blanhigyn. Rhowch anrheg i harddu'u cartref, yn enwedig os yw e'n arian neu'n antique. Maen nhw'n dwlu ar gasglu pethau stampiau, siwgiau, hen lwyau – rhywbeth. Prynwch ddillad cynnes – siol neu sgarff. Hoff liw – arian neu lwyd golau.

LEO:
Pobl hael sy'n hoffi creu argraff, ond os y'ch am ddal yn ffrindie gofalwch nad yw'ch anrheg chi yn well na'r un gawsoch chi wrthyn nhw! Prynwch rhywbeth i harddu'r gwallt – crib, rhuban, lliw. Rhowch docynnau theatr, cinio moethus, drych, gemau mawr, recordiau CD, neu ddillad 'flashy'. A'u hoff liwiau yw aur, melyn ac oren.

VIRGO:
Pobl drefnus gyda lle i bob peth. Mi fyddan nhw'n mwynhau cael dyddiadur electronig, filing cabinet, Geiriadur, Encyclopaedia. Dyma'r unig arwydd sy'n croesawu anrhegion o sebon neu aftershave. A mi fyddan nhw wrth eu bodd yn cael voucher i'r Clwb Iechyd. Hoff liwiau – nefi a llwyd.

LIBRA:
Pobl hawdd i'w plesio ond i chi roi rhywbeth moethus i'w helpu i ymlacio – potel o siampên, neu fyblbath. Pobl ramantus sy'n hoffi'r gorau – cinio i ddau, objets d'art chwaethus, perlau.... Danfonwch flodau neu prynwch CDs clasurol – fel Pavarotti neu Margaret Williams. Hoff liwiau: pinc neu las golau.

SCORPIO:
Pobl ddwfn a rhywiol sydd wrth eu bodd gydag ymchwil a sgandal – prynwch y Bywgraffiadur, Encyclopaedia, neu rhowch rhywbeth mewn lleder iddyn nhw... Potel o rywbeth bach cryf...neu gês o win coch...llyfrau ias a chyffro... Hoff liwiau: coch tywyll a du.

SAGITTARIUS:
Mae rhain yn hoffi antur, teithio a gadjets – prynwch docyn sengl i Beru, taith lawr yr Amazon... neu brosesydd bwyd – camera awtomatig, agorydd tun trydan.... Maen nhw'n hoffi ceffylau, cŵn mawr, ceir cyflym a chwaraeon, felly prynwch rywbeth sy'n ymwneud â'r rheiny. Tocynnau theatr, whisky, gwersi hedfan. Hoff liw: porffor.

CAPRICORN:
Pobl synhwyrol ac uchelgeisiol fyddai'n gwerthfawrogi anrheg ymarferol dibynnol fel Rolls Royce, Miele, Rolex neu Cartier. Neu rhowch rywbeth syml chwaethus iddyn nhw wedi ei lapio mewn papur Harrods. Mae llyfrau swmpus bob tro'n dderbyniol neu falwn i godi'u hysbryd. Lliwiau sobor – dim byd llachar – brown, du neu las tywyll.

AQUARIUS:
Mae rhain yn mwynhau spreis, a byddai unrhyw beth newydd a gwirion yn apelio fel cloc larwm sy'n esgus bod yn bêl griced, neu oriawr sy'n cynnau sigarets. Rhowch ddillad llachar streips o bob lliw, neu dei bô chwirligwgan lurex. Prynwch gemau bwrdd gwirion, amhosib i'w deall. Hoff liw yw glas llachar, streips a checks.

PISCES:
Pobl artistig, emosiynol – prynwch facynon poced pert, pysgod aur neu fotel o rhywbeth cryf. Maen nhw wrth eu boddau gyda sgidiau, sane silc du neu sliperi cynnes. Rhowch ddillad rhamantus iddyn nhw mewn chiffon neu felfed. Prynwch ganhwyllau, arogldarth neu docynnau i'r sinema. Hoff liwiau yw gwyrdd y môr a fioled.

ANGHARAD

DOES unman yn debyg i gartre medd yr hen ddywediad ac yn sicr does unman yn debyg i'r Bontfaen adeg y Nadolig.

Mae prydferthwch y coed bach ar waliau'r adeiladau hynod ar hyd y brif stryd yn ryfeddod. Does dim llawer o fantesion i'r nosweithiau hir tywyll heblaw bod oriau'n rhagor i werthfawrogi disgleirdeb Nadoligaidd y goleuadau godidog.

Ond mae sawl rheswm i ni wneud mwy na dim ond gwerthfawrogi'r goleuadau. Er mor hawdd yw'r siopau mawr, a phrynu arlein, mae'n bwysig hefyd ein bod yn siopa yn y dre neu bydd y siopau bach unigryw yn gorfod cau. Gallai hyny fod yn drychineb i hen dre farchnad fel y Bontfaen sy'n dibynnu ar ei hynodrwydd i ddenu busnes a chwsmeriaid.

Cyn rhuthro arlein felly dyma bwyntiau sy'n werth eu hystyried: bydd eich arian yn rhoi hwb i'r economi lleol – am bob punt sy'n cael ei wario mewn busnes bach mae 63c yn aros yn yr economi leol o'i gymharu a 40c gyda busnes mawr.

Y dewis moesol yw i brynu'n lleol a phrynu cynnyrch o fwtseriaid a gwerthwyr llysiau a ffrwythau lleol. Yn ogystal a chefnogi ffermwyr yr ardal bydd mwy o faeth yn y bwyd a llai o blastig lapio gwastraffus.

Mae siopau bach annibynnol yn llawn o anrhegion bach gwahanol ac unigryw sy'n anodd iawn i ddod o hyd iddynt ar y we neu mewn siopau mawr sy'n prynu popeth fesul llwyth.

Mae prynu'n lleol yn gymorth i gynnal cymunedau. Mae sawl siop fach yn cynnig digwyddiadau bach, boed yn grwpiau gwnio neu wau neu weithgareddau i'r plant. Os yw'r busnesau yn diflannu mae grwpiau cymunedol yn debygol o fynd ar gyfeiliorn hefyd. Mewn marchnadoedd Nadolig mae pwrpas cymdeithasol yn aml i'r stondinau – maent yn cynnig gwerth cyhoeddus yn ogystal â llefydd i brynu.

Mae gwerthwyr lleol yn debygol o roi gostyngiad i brynwyr ffyddlon, ac mae dod i adnabod y perchennog hefyd yn golygu y cewch gyngor da.

Ac felly rwyf wedi dod i'r casgliad mae'r peth gorau i'w wneud yn ysbryd yr wyl eleni yw i ddechrau adduned flwyddyn newydd yn gynnar, a chefnogi mwy o'r siopau bach sy'n dod a'r fath amrywiaeth gwych i'r Bontfaen. Welai chi yno. A Nadolig Llawen i chi gyd!

DYSGWYR YN MWYNHAU'R CWRS SADWRN

Daeth dros 50 o ddysgwyr Caerdydd a Bro Morgannwg at ei gilydd ar ddydd Sadwrn 7fed Tachwedd i fwynhau Cwrs Sadwrn ym Mhrifysgol Caerdydd

Thema'r Cwrs Sadwrn oedd Tywysogion a Chestyll Cymru. Roedd y dosbarthiadau yn llawn hwyl wrth i'r tiwtoriaid gwisgo fel tywysogion a chroeso siaradwr gwadd a oedd yn sôn am y Normaniaid. I gloi'r cwrs roedd cwis cerddoriaeth, roedd hwn yn gyfle gwych i'r dysgwyr ddod at ei gilydd ac ymarfer eu Cymraeg â phobl oedd ar lefelau gwahanol.

Dywedodd Glyn Wise, trefnydd y cwrs: "Mae'n hyfryd i weld cymaint o ddysgwyr ar lefelau gwahanol yn dod at ei gilydd i fwynhau ac ymarfer eu Cymraeg".

Beth am ddod ar y Cwrs Calan i ymarfer eich Cymraeg sydd ar yr 2il a'r 3ydd o Ionawr ym Mhrifysgol Caerdydd? Am ragor o wybodaeth ewch i www.learnwelsh.co.uk neu ffoniwch 029 2087 4710.

Gweithgareddau Cyfrwng Cymraeg Cyngor Bro Morgannwg

Clwb Llyfrau

Bydd cyfarfod nesaf y Clwb Llyfrau ar nos Lun Rhagfyr 7fed, 19.30-20.30 yng Nghanolfan Palmerston, a byddwn yn trafod 'Afallon' gan Robat Gruffydd.

Darlith

'Ynni – Pŵer i'r dyfodol' gan Gareth Clubb (Cyfeillion y Ddaear Cymru) – dydd Sadwrn Rhagfyr 12fed, 11-12 yn Llyfrgell y Barri.

Dathliad Nadolig Cymreig

Crefftau, carolau a gweithgareddau traddodiadol – Nos Lun Rhagfyr 14eg, 18.30-20.30 yng Nghanolfan Palmerston.

Am fanylion pellach, cysylltwch â Mared Furnham: mnfurnham@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk / 01446 733762

Whodunnit at the Belfreey Hotel?

The cast of the murder mystery evening at Brynhill Golf Club.

Brynhill Golf Club members and guests were recently entertained to 'murder and mystery' in the Belfreey Hotel (Brynhill lounge).

The guests were shown to their tables and the cast started a highly hysterical evening's entertainment. Mr Ivor Bookin, hotel manager (Mike Underdown) put on a great performance with his wife Mrs Phyllis Bookin (played by Judy Davies), who also portrayed Inspector Laura Norder.

Nurse Cathy Trerize (Glynis Gould) was the long-suffering subject of Ivor's affections.

The waiter, Vinnie de Tableau (Tony Davies), and Sylvia the chambermaid (Sam Pascoe), both played their parts admirably.

The elf and safety prompter (Jo Kirkpatrick) was not called upon too often, as the cast had worked extremely hard and there was much hysterical ad libbing.

The cast were given a standing ovation at the end of the performance. ***JK***

MP calls for clarity on car parking policy

VALE MP Alun Cairns is calling on the Vale Council to clarify its position on proposed car parking charges – after council leader Neil Moore suggested that charges may not go ahead.

Mr Cairns met with over 100 businesses that could be affected by parking charges in the Vale last week.

Traders who met with Vale Council recently were unanimous in calling for the council to scrap plans to charge, and following the comments from Mr Moore, the Vale MP is calling for clarity to boost new starters on the high street.

In last week's GEM, the Vale leader gave a heavy hint that the council is unlikely to proceed with the planned charges. He wrote: "I can confirm that as a council we will be seriously reconsidering if (and it's a big if), we should introduce car parking charges in Barry and Cowbridge town centres, after having conversations with local people and traders in both towns."

Mr Cairns said: "Coun Moore has indicated that he has listened to the valid concerns of traders, and to his credit he is showing the necessary leadership to get the policy right.

"I am concerned that allowing the uncertainty to drag on will stop new shops opening.

"I have been told that a number of new businesses are, understandably, holding off signing leases until the policy on car parking is clarified."

Department for Work & Pensions

IF YOU WERE
born on or after 6th April 1951
OR
born on or after 6th April 1953
THIS APPLIES TO YOU

Our State Pension is changing

Knowing how much to expect from your State Pension will help you plan for your future

The State Pension is being changed in April 2016 to make it easier to understand in the future. How much you get depends on your National Insurance record. If you're 55 or over you can request a State Pension statement based on the new rules.

To find out more information about what you're entitled to and how to order a State Pension statement visit:
www.gov.uk/yourstatepension

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

THE STATE PENSION IS CHANGING – KNOW THE FACTS

THE State Pension is a regular payment from the government most of us can claim when we reach State Pension age. On 6 April 2016, the new State Pension will be introduced for women born on or after the 6 April 1953, and men born on or after 6 April 1951. The changes to the current system will make it less complicated in the future..

If you were born before these dates, you'll continue to receive your State Pension under the current scheme, even if you defer claiming it.

How much will I get?

This will depend on your National Insurance (NI) record so not everyone will get the same amount. You'll normally need at least 10 qualifying years to get any State Pension. These can be from before or after 6 April 2016, and don't have to be ten years in a row.

The full amount of the new State Pension will be around £155.65 a week but you may get more or less than this depending on your past NI record.

No one who qualifies for the new State Pension should get less than they would have received under the old system, based on their own contributions to April 2016.

What if you are or were in a pension scheme at work?

If you are or were in a salary-related pension scheme at work (for example, "final salary" or "career average"), or you were in any type of pension scheme at work before April 2012, you are likely to have been "contracted-out" of the Additional State Pension. (This is part of the current State Pension system). Some stakeholder and personal pension schemes were also "contracted-out".

If you have been contracted-out of the Additional State Pension this means you paid less NI into the State system and built up some private pension instead. However, your private pension should include an amount that, in most cases, will be at least equivalent to the Additional State Pension you contracted-out of.

The actual amount you'll receive from your contracted-out pension scheme will depend on the scheme.

From April 2016, contracting-out will end as will the reduced NI rate contracted-out employers and employees have been paying.

Department for Work & Pensions

How can I increase my State Pension?

National Insurance (NI) credits can help fill gaps in your NI record. They may increase the amount of new State Pension you get when you reach State Pension age.

You may also be able to pay voluntary contributions to fill gaps you may have for recent years on your NI record. Check your position before you do this to ensure you can benefit.

You may be able to increase your State Pension if you are working and paying NI contributions.

If you choose to defer claiming your new State Pension when you reach State Pension age, you may build up extra State Pension. Not everyone can defer – please check whether you are eligible.

National Insurance Credits that you might get

You can get credits in various circumstances which might include:

• Caring for one or more disabled people, for at least 20 hours a week.

• Receiving certain benefits, such as Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance or Carers Allowance.

• Caring for a grandchild or other family member under the age of 12.

Find out what this means for you by visiting www.gov.uk/yourstatepension.

If you are aged 55 or over you can ask for a State Pension statement for an estimate of your

Helping people who suffered in Nepal disaster

MOST of us will no doubt remember the tragic events that befell Nepal in April of this year: although geographically thousands of miles apart, the community of Y Bont Faen Primary was determined to help, particularly as one family originates from Nepal.

The quakes and resulting aftershocks caused horrific damage to their country – destroying schools, hospitals and homes, as well as tearing families apart – many of whom tragically lost loved ones to this epic disaster.

Alongside the Tamang family, Y Bont Faen decided to raise money for the charity Aid for Nepali Children.

The charity was already building schools for children who, in whatever circumstance, could not access free education; as well as employing teachers and maintaining existing school buildings. Tragically, the disaster wiped out so much of the amazing work the charity had already done. So the Y Bont Faen community decided to help by launching *'Sponsor Our Stones'*.

By asking people to commit to sponsoring a stone, they hoped they could literally help rebuild the lives of the Nepalese people as well as secure the future education of generations to come.

The project was extended to schools around the rural Vale, who helped to raise further funds for this wonderful charity. A huge thank you must also go to Cowbridge Rotary, Eagleswell Primary, St David's Primary, Llangan Primary, Wick and Marcross Primary, St Nicholas Primary, Llanfair Primary, Ysgol Dewi Sant and Iolo Morganwg.

To date, an amazing £3,000 has been raised and it is especially fitting, that so many schools have been able to work together to rebuild educational establishments. If you are interested in finding out more about Aid for Nepali Children visit their website at *www.aidfornepalichildren.org.uk/*.

CAROLS AT ST DONATS CHURCH

Everyone enjoyed the carol service at St Donats. PHOTO by HEATHER MARCH

ST DONATS Church held their early carol service before the end of Atlantic College term, when everyone enjoyed music and readings by staff and students from many different countries and beautiful, unaccompanied singing by the AC Acapella Group and St Donats children. A collection was made for Medecins Sans Frontieres.

Barry born author's Christmas novellas have been released

BARRY-born author Jill Barry has two Christmas novellas available for digital download.

Endeavour Press commissioned her to write a foodie themed festive story and *Crazy Days of Christmas* stars charismatic cooks, 'Lucy' and co-chef 'James'.

And *Christmas in the Country* takes readers back to the Roaring Twenties, one of her favourite eras.

Jill said: "Thoroughly modern Annabel dislikes what she's heard about Viscount Lassiter, a last-minute house-guest at the family celebration, and is determined to shun him. If readers are fans of Downton Abbey, they should enjoy Christmas with the Crawford clan."

The GEM featured Jill (real name Sandra Mackness) earlier this year when she topped the Amazon Kindle contemporary romance novel list.

Author Jill Barry.

Readers can find her Christmas novellas by going to Amazon and putting in the name 'Jill Barry' and the title of the novella.

Jill grew up in Barry – her father owned The Corner Garage on the current Kwit Fit site (just off Gladstone Road roundabout). She developed her love of stories and literature during her visits to the town's library when she was young

She wrote the two novellas during the summer and helped create the right mood by listening to carols while writing!

She curently lives in Ammanford, but will be a little closer to her Barry roots when she moves to the Newport area soon.

Cowbridge Choral Society

ON December 5 at 6.30pm Cowbridge Choral Society will present their Christmas Celebration concert in Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge.

Tickets from WG Davies, 38 High Street Cowbridge; choral society members, or on the door. There will be music old and new and guest performers Old Spice, Vanessa John Hall, and the children from Wick and Marcross C/W Primary School.

New members always welcome; rehearsals take place in United Free Church on Westgate Street every Thursday at 7.30pm.

Christmas Extravaganza

NANTYMOEL Community Association is holding a fair on Sunday, December 6 10am – 2pm, at Ogmore Valley Life Centre.

There will be stalls from local businesses, crafts, pre-loved books and DVDs; raffle, refreshments, and more! There will also be festive music from Ogmore Valley Silver Band. Entry is free!

Stalls still available – to book or for further information, contact ogmorevalley@outlook.com or on the coffee shop number 01656 840080.

WI group sees book of condolence

The AM shows the Llanblethian WI group the book of condolence for victims of the Paris killings.

RECENTLY, the Llanblethian WI had a special VIP tour to celebrate the movement's centenary.

Vale AM Jane Hutt explained: "For the past 100 years, the WI has provided women with educational opportunities and the chance to campaign on issues that matter to them. I was delighted to welcome them to the Senedd."

CAROLS AT ST ILLTYD'S

FRIENDS of Tenovus are holding their Lovelight Carol Service at St Illtyd's Church, Llantwit Major on Tuesday, December 15 at 7.30pm. All welcome.

JOINT CAPTAINS' DRIVE NETS £948 FOR RNIB

GROVE Golf Club's presentation night was held on November 27: Club captain Neil Summers and Ladies' captain, Vicky Ford, combined their fundraising efforts during the year toward one charity which they agreed would be the RNIB Cymru (Royal National Institute for the Blind in Wales).

During the course of the presentation evening, a cheque for £9484.40 was accepted on behalf of the charity by Carol Mckinlay, the area fundraising manager at RNIB Cymru.

The donation was made possible by events held throughout the year, including the Porthcawl Christmas morning swim, raffles, a ladies' Ascot day held at The Grove, and a very successful joint captains' charity day.

The RNIB Cymru supports people with sight loss in Wales, and Neil and Vicky said they were "very grateful" for all the donations and support for their efforts to raise such a large amount for this worthwhile cause.

Talented pupils' mosaic artwork goes on show

PUPILS, staff and parents of Colcot Primary School are delighted with the new mosaic mural that has been completed this term.

Pupils were asked to base their drawings on their 10 school values. and artist Kate Derbyshire worked with them, using their drawings to design a spectacular mural for the playground wall. Every pupil had the opportunity to work with Kate on various stages of the artwork.

The younger pupils made clay hand prints and decorated them; the older pupils worked with the coloured tiles to make the mosaic featuring the ten values.

The colours chosen in the art work are bright and bold and bring sunshine to the playground even on a wet, grey day!

ME

Black dogs were looking for love on Black Friday

JET.

LOLA.

ON Black Friday, there was no 'retail therapy' for residents at Dogs Trust Bridgend – but the rehoming centre is taking the opportunity to celebrate three black dog residents in the hope that it will help them to find loving new homes.

Lola, Seren and Jet are all looking for homes, and staff were hoping Black Friday would prove lucky for the trio.

Supporter Relations Officer, Linda Feagan explained: "We thought it would be the perfect opportunity to celebrate the wonderful black dogs in our care! They are all such superb characters and they really deserve to find a loving new home – we thought if any day would be lucky for them, then surely it's Black Friday!"

Call Dogs Trust on 0300 303 0292 or visit www.dogstrust.org.uk.

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.barry-today.co.uk/ www.cowbridge-today.co.uk/ www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk/ www.bridgend-today.co.uk/www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

PC's arresting award for fighting wildlife crime

ABOVE PC Mark Goulding with Chief Constable Simon Prince and Sarah Goddard from WWF-UK. Photo by G Shorrock, RSPB.

PC MARK GOULDING of South Wales Police, currently on secondment to Natural Resources Wales, has won the WWF-Sponsored Wildlife Law Enforcer of the Year Award 2015 for tackling fishing poaching and raising awareness among partner agencies.

He received his award from Sarah Goddard, Species Policy Officer at WWF-UK, and Chief Constable Simon Prince of Dyfed-Powys Police at the National Wildlife Crime Enforcers Conference at Leamington Spa. Law enforcers, statutory agencies and NGOs had gathered to hear about successes and challenges in combating wildlife crime in the UK.

PC Goulding, who developed the River Taff Project with colleagues from Natural Resources Wales, has helped reduce poaching on the river between Cardiff and Merthyr Tydfil, and a number of prosecutions are currently ongoing, thanks to his work.

Also thanks to his work, three men were prosecuted for releasing into the wild a viable breeding population of wild boar following a commercial burglary.

PC Goulding has recently taken on the responsibility of being the historic and ancient monument crime single point of contact for South Wales Police and reports to the force's Assistant Chief Constable.

He has recovered a fossil from a historical theft on a site of special scientific interest in mid Wales and is currently working on a case of damage in the Gower.

Barry at War Christmas crafts fair

THERE will be a fair at Barry Island Station on Sunday, December 13 from 11am – 3pm, with handmade cards and gifts made by local crafters.

The Barry War Museum and Railway Café will be open and the tourist railway Santa Specials will also be running.

Age Connects in a call for volunteers

AGE CONNECTS Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan is appealing for volunteers to continue the success of a 'Let's Get Out' project and reach out to more elderly people.

The service aims to reduce loneliness, isolation and improve wellbeing, but needs more volunteers.

Vale co-ordinator Samantha Jones said: "We are finding a real need for this kind of service in and around Barry; sadly, at the moment we do not have the volunteer resources to help everyone who needs it. We are looking for volunteers to accompany an older person to a lunch group, out for a cup of tea, or simply a stroll around the shops.

"If anyone has an hour or so a week to help, please get in touch."

Iris, who has lived in Barry for many years, found the project a great help after she broke her hip.

Having been previously quite independent, she found the weekly walk to her local shops overwhelming, to the point where she couldn't leave the house alone.

Contact Samantha on 07584 346014 for more information, or if you would like to help out.

Use your Welsh around Bridgend county!

MENTER Bro Ogwr promotes and furthers the use of the Welsh language in Bridgend county. The intention is to raise the profile of the Welsh language in the county by increasing the opportunities for residents to use the language in a variety of fields. This is what's going on this month:

WEEKLY EVENTS

Monday: Porthcawl Coffee morning for Welsh learners and speakers, YMCA Porthcawl, 11am-12am; Science Club for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg y Ferch o'r Sgêr pupils, lunchtime, free; Arts and Crafts Club for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bro Ogwr pupils, 3.30pm–4.30pm, £1 a session.

Tuesday: Bridgend coffee morning for Welsh learners and speakers, Tŷ Coffi Bridgend, 10am-11am; Animation Club for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw pupils, lunchtime, free.

Wednesday: DJ lessons club, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, lunchtime; Art Club for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg y Ferch o'r Sgêr pupils, lunchtime, free; Youth Club, Bridgend YMCA, 6pm-8pm, £1 a session.

Thursday: Playground Games Club for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cynwyd Sant pupils, lunchtime, free; Siop Siarad, Siop Yr Hen Bont, Bridgend – a chance for Welsh learners to ask questions and practice their Welsh with other learners. Every Thursday, Group 1: 12.45pm-1.30pm, Practicing Mynediad and Sylfaen patterns; Group 2: 1.30pm-2.15pm Start chatting in Welsh; Group 3: 2.15pm-3pm. For those who can hold a conversation in Welsh.

Dydd Gwener: Youth Club, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, lunchtime.

For more information, contact Menter Bro Ogwr 01656 732200, menter@broogwr.org, 07774 032624. Follow us on Facebook a Twitter for all the latest news.

Defnyddiwch eich Cymraeg ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr!

MAE Menter Bro Ogwr yn hybu ac yn hyrwyddo'r defnydd o'r iaith Gymraeg yn sir Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr. Bwriad y Fenter yw codi proffil yr iaith Gymraeg yn y sir gan gynyddu cyfleoedd trigolion o bob oedran ddefnyddio'r iaith mewn amrywiaeth o feysydd. Dyma beth sy'n digwydd gyda ni mis yma:

Digwyddiadau wythnosol:

Dydd Llun: Bore Coffi Porthcawl i ddysgwyr a Chymry Cymraeg, YMCA Porthcawl, 11-12yp; clwb Gwyddoniaeth i blant Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg y Ferch o'r Sgêr, amser cinio, am ddim; Clwb Celf a Chreffi i blant Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Bro Ogwr, 3.30pm–4.30pm, £1 y sesiwn.

Dydd Mawrth: Bore Coffi Pen-y-bont i ddysgwyr a Chymry Cymraeg, Caffi Tŷ Coffi Pen-y-bont, 10-11yb; Clwb Animeiddio i blant Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cwm Garw, amser cinio, am ddim.

Dydd Mercher: Clwb Gwersi DJ, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, amser cinio; Clwb Celf i blant Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg y Ferch o'r Sgêr, amser cinio, am ddim; Clwb Ieuenctid, YMCA Pen-y-bont, 6-8yh, £1 y sesiwn.

Dydd Iau: Clwb Gemau iard i blant Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Cynwyd Sant, amser cinio, am ddim; Siop Siarad, Siop Yr Hen Bont, Pen-y-bont, Cyfle i ddysgwyr holi cwestiynau, ymarfer a gloywi eu Cymraeg, ynghyd â dysgwyr o'r un lefel. Pob Dydd Iau Grŵp 1: 12.45pm-1.30pm. Ymarfer patrymau iaith lefelau Mynediad a Sylfaen; Grŵp 2: 1.30pm-2.15pm. Dechrau sgwrsio yn Gymraeg; Grŵp 3: 2.15pm-3pm. I bobl sy'n gallu cynnal sgwrs Gymraeg.

Dydd Gwener: Clwb ieuenctid, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Llangynwyd, amser cinio.

Am ragor o fanylion cysylltwch â ni! Menter Bro Ogwr 01656 732200; menter@broogwr.org; 07774 032624. Dilynwch ni ar Facebook a Twitter am y newyddion diweddaraf!

Menter Bro Ogwr annual general meeting 2015

ARE you passionate about the Welsh language? Would you like to play a role in the developments of the language in Bridgend county? We need you!

Menter Bro Ogwr promotes and furthers the use of the Welsh language by co-operating with associations, societies, businesses, learners and schools. The initiative's intention is to raise the profile of the Welsh language in the county by increasing the opportunities for residents to use the language in a variety of fields.

Menter Bro Ogwr was established in 1993 by a few enthusiasts who wanted to ensure that the Welsh language had a voice in the county. The intention of the initiative was to raise the profile of the language in Bro Ogwr by offering opportunities for people to use Welsh in addition to fostering confidence and increasing the number of new Welsh speakers.

Menter Bro Ogwr's annual meeting is being held this Thursday (December 3) in The Farmers, Nottage, Porthcawl at 7pm.

You are welcome to join us to hear about Menter Bro Ogwr's work over the last year. Menter Bro Ogwr is also looking for new members for our management committee and this meeting is your opportunity to be elected. Join us and let's see the Welsh language thriving in Bro Ogwr!

AJE

Cyfarfod Blynyddol Menter Bro Ogwr 2015

YDYCH chi'n teimlo'n angerddol dros yr iaith Gymraeg? Hoffech chi chwarae rhan yn natblygiadau'r Gymraeg yn sir Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr? 'Dyn ni eich angen chi!

Mae Menter Bro Ogwr yn hybu ac yn hyrwyddo'r iaith Gymraeg drwy gydweithio â mudiadau, cymdeithasau, busnesau, dysgwyr ac ysgolion. Bwriad y Fenter yw codi proffil yr iaith Gymraeg yn y sir gan gynyddu cyfleoedd trigolion o bob oedran i ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg mewn amrywiaeth o feysydd.

Sefydlwyd Menter Bro Ogwr yn Hydref 1993 gan griw o wirfoddolwyr oedd eisiau sicrhau llais i'r iaith Gymraeg. Nod y Fenter oedd codi proffil yr iaith ym Mro Ogwr drwy gynnig cyfleoedd i bobl ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg yn ogystal â magu hyder a chynyddu'r nifer o siaradwyr Cymraeg newydd.

Bydd Cyfarfod Blynyddol Menter Bro Ogwr yn cael eio gynnal ar nos Iau, Ragfyr 3 yn The Farmers, Notais, Porthcawl am 7yh.

Dyma gyfle i chi glywed am waith y Fenter dros y flwyddyn diwethaf. Rydym hefyd yn edrych am aelodau newydd ar gyfer ein pwyllgor rheoli ac mae'r cyfarfod yma'n gyfle i chi gael eich ethol. Ymunwch â ni er mwyn gweld y Gymraeg yn ffynnu ym Mro Ogwr!

AJE

WHY OWNER LEFT PET WITH THE DOGS TRUST...

'He won't fit in my handbag'

DOGS TRUST, which has a rehoming centre in Bridgend, has teamed up with some famous faces to launch'A Dog is For Life, Not Just For Christmas', following a year of ludicrous excuses by owners when giving up their pets.

Staff at Dogs Trust Bridgend were taken aback to hear a member of the public say they no longer wanted their dog because they didn't think it was a pedigree!

The line-up of celebrity dog lovers includes *Sky News*'s Eamonn Holmes, *Sherlock*'s Amanda Abbington, *Great British Bake Off*'s Mel Giedroyc and comedian Jon Richardson, whose shocked reactions were captured as they read out the farcical and sometimes bizarre excuses given by members of the public who no longer want their dogs.

The charity's staff have recorded the most preposterous excuses heard over the last 12 months.

These included: "He's too perfect;" "the fence was hit by lightning so we took it as a sign that we shouldn't have a dog;" "he chewed my model helicopter;" "he kept chewing the grandchildren's nappies;" "all he does is sleep;" "he doesn't bark;" "he looked different after we walked him in the rain;" "he won't fit in my handbag or wear the clothes I bought him."

Dogs Trust Bridgend, Supporter Relations Officer, Linda Feagan explained: "Sadly, there are many understandable reasons why people have to give up their dogs and we appreciate that circumstances can change beyond their control. However we cannot fathom that dogs should lose their security, comfort and home for such reasons they as "ate the banoffee pie" or "sat in front of the TV when the football was on."

New integrated transport plan could transform Wales' future

AN ambitious plan for a Metro integrated transport system in south Wales took a step forwards this week when the First Minister launched a campaign to raise awareness.

The scheme is expected to see a substantial increase in speed and frequency of public transport, using a combination of heavy rail, light rail and bus rapid transit, as well as other infrastructure improvements and integrated ticketing.

Carwyn Jones AM said he was delighted with the response from industry: "The Metro project represents the future of public transport in south-east Wales and will provide faster journey times and more frequent services covering a greater area. It is an ambitious project linking people and jobs across south Wales in a fast, efficient and environmentally positive way.

"The Metro is far more than just a transport project. It will be a catalyst for transforming the economic and social prospects of south-east Wales and the country as a whole," he predicted.

IN BRIEF

Advice surgery

DYFAN ward councillors Claire Curtis and Anthony Powell will hold an advice surgery on Saturday, December 5 at Buttrills Community Centre on North Walk, Barry from 10am to 11am. No appointment is necessary.

Nazareth fair

THE Nazareth Baptist Chapel, Bryncethin, holds its Christmas fair on Saturday, December 5.

Primary pupils get a special visit from musical Santas!

Lloyd Pearce (trombone), Corey Morris (trumpet), with Debbie Roblin from Western Power Distribution. Photo by Patrick Olner.

OAK Field primary school pupils had a special visit from musicians and puppeteers from the Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama, Cardiff, who will be welcoming the children at the college to see *Santa's Stressful Day*.

Poor Santa! It's the day before Christmas Eve; the reindeer have all got terrible colds and might not be able to pull the sleigh.

So a very stressed-out Santa heads out around the world to try and find some other animals who could do the job instead.

He has just one day to find substitutes, or the world's children won't get their presents...

The college and Western Power are sponsoring the production. ND

PUPILS REPORT ON THEIR PROGRESS TO PARENTS...

BARRY Comprehensive School's year-7 students welcomed their parents/guardians and families to a recent pupil progress presentation evening.

They gave presentations to demonstrate the progress made since joining the school in September, focusing on English, maths and a subject of their choice.

As part of a school/home partnership, parents were asked to note targets for improvement and support materials were available to make sure the whole family can join-in and make the most of the learning opportunities available.

David Williams, senior learning mentor for year -7 said: "It was a delight to see so many parents involve themselves in the pupil progress evening. Hopefully, we can continue to work together to improve the learning of all pupils."

PICTURED ABOVE:
Year-7 students at the comprehensive report on their progress to their mums and dads...

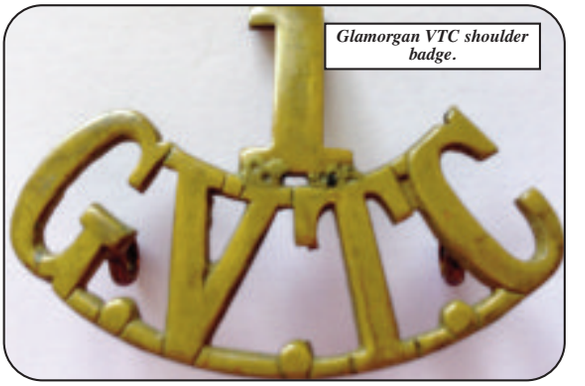
Two momentous events that marked December 1915

Amid the carnage, poppies become immortalised on Flanders Field

by Ceri Joseph

The Porthcawl Hotel.

The Esplanade Hotel.



Glamorgan VTC shoulder badge.

The National School, Lias Road.

The Coliseum.

TWO significant, yet initially unrelated events took place in December 1915, which were to prove influential in the years to come.

Douglas Haig replaced Sir John French as Commander in Chief of the British Army and John McCrae's poem 'On Flanders Field' was published, anonymously, in *Punch* magazine on December 8.

Lt Col John McCrae, a Canadian doctor, had been inspired by the appearance of poppies growing in the battlefield, after losing a friend at Ypres in the spring of 1915.

Douglas Haig, who had distinguished himself as Commander of the 1st Corps of the BEF at Mons and Ypres, became Supreme Commander of the British Army on December 16.

Evidence suggests that he played an active role in French's downfall, informing King George V that he had little confidence in Sir John French's command, but that he, Haig, "would be willing to do his duty in any capacity."

Consequently Haig himself would be remembered for the carnage of 'The Somme' the following year, for which his lack of tactical awareness would be nationally criticised .

Conversely, the poppy immortalised in the poem 'On Flanders Field' would become synonymous with the fallen. Not just with World War 1 casualties, but eventually adopted as a symbol of Remembrance for all British military engagements.

The Royal British Legion formed in 1921 raised over £106,000 from the first ever 'Poppy Appeal.' A French lady, Anna Guerin had bought the nine million poppies sold in Britain, but in 1922 Major George Howson set up the Poppy Factory to employ disabled ex-Servicemen.

Interestingly, demand for poppies was so high in Britain in the ensuing years that Douglas Haig's wife established the Lady Haig Poppy Factory in Edinburgh in 1926.

Porthcawl's branch of the Royal British Legion was formed in 1924, evolving out of the local organisation Comrades of the Great War.

The Gallipoli campaign resulted in 250,000 Allied casualties. December 11 witnessed the final withdrawal of the severely depleted 53rd Welsh Division from Gallipoli to Alexandria, where in the New Year they would be involved in military action defending Serbia and Greece against the Bulgarians.

However, prior to the Welsh arriving, one Porthcawlian had already seen action at Salonika in the Battle of Kosturino. Prior to landing on Salonika, 2nd Lieutenant Charles Alan Smith Morris, Clevis House, Newton, Porthcawl had already seen active service, being wounded in his right knee at the Battle of Neuve Chapelle the previous March 1915.

On November 18, 1915 2nd Lt Morris, one of a 350-strong Bedfordshire Regiment contingent, landed at Salonika attached to the 5th Royal Irish Fusiliers, whose number had been depleted to 280 due to their involvement in the Gallipoli Campaign.

As part of the restructuring, the 20-year-old 2nd Lt Morris found himself in command of a company, despite having only seen around 24 hours of service on a front line by that time.

He kept a diary in which he describes his time at 'Rocky Peak', which would eventually become part of what became known as the Battle of Kosturino between the forces of Bulgaria and Great Britain.

Morris wrote on December 3, 1915: 'When we got to the Regiment, (November 28) we had a very thin time, no tents, huts or billets, but just a bivouac where you were out in the open. It was freezing hard at night then, the men had nothing, except one blanket and a waterproof sheet.

'The next night it rained, and we all got very wet, as there is no cover and nowhere to dry anything.' He continued: 'The next night it got much colder and snowed, and all the next day, ending up with about four inches of snow on the ground.'

Lt Morris then explains how the Company Commander went sick with jaundice and he had to take command. After four days, the company ended up further up the line on a rocky peak.

The blizzards that welcomed December took their toll on his men. Many went down with frostbite, lost their toes, all of which weakened the regiment.

However, it did not weaken Morris's resolve. Describing their position as 4,000 foot up in the mountains, with no roads and deserted villages, Morris relates how – 'The Bulgars don't seem a bit keen on fighting and a lot of them have been giving themselves up.'

Yet on December 7, Lt Morris led an assault on the 'Bulgars' stronghold as the fog descended. According to dispatches, Morris got shot in the right shoulder and 'vanished in the fog.'

In his diary, he describes how he had to walk a few miles to the nearest dressing station

Lt Col John McCrae.

Lt CAS Morris.

before being transferred onto a hospital ship, bound for England.

Major Charles Alan Smith Morris, as he is later to be addressed, sadly did not survive the war. His story, which was related in April's issue, stated that he died on May 7, 1917, near Arras.

Meanwhile, back in Porthcawl on the second week in December, 124 men enlisted into the services at the Esplanade; and the first meeting took place of the Porthcawl branch of the Glamorgan Voluntary Training Corps.

The need to play their part in the war was keenly felt among those outside enlisting age, or those with genuine reasons unable to join the regular army.

The scheme was viewed more as a home defence organisation against a German invasion. Nationally, the Volunteer Training Corps was suspended in December 1918. It was officially disbanded in January 1920, with the exception of the Volunteer Motor Corps, which was retained until April 1921 in case of civil disorder. The idea would emerge again as the Home Guard in World War 2.

Amid a time of fear and heartache, the Christmas spirit still endured. In response to a national request for footballs for the front, the Rev DG Samuel, the newly-appointed curate to the parish, presented one to the 23rd Pioneer Battalion, stationed at the town.

Further, Christmas dinner for the 150 wounded men of the Welsh Regiment Danygraig camp was served at 1pm at the Porthcawl Hotel, and was paid for and provided by the management of the Porthcawl Coliseum (the Spar today).

A thousand cigarettes were also supplied by the children of the Porthcawl Council Schools, who had trawled the town during the month, collecting their gift.

The 90 wounded soldiers at 'The Rest' were also treated to a Christmas dinner at 5pm and an evening of entertainment; but they enjoyed the fruit and sweets provided by the children of Porthcawl's private schools.

The month ended with the news that, on December 28, the British Government had agreed to introduce compulsory military service, with single men to be conscripted before married ones.

The Military Services Act was passed in January 1916; and came into force in March, that same year.

CERI JOSEPH
Porthcawl Museu

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SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER

SHOP LOCAL

Support Local Businesses

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER

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Sully Christmas Markets

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10am to 4pm

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'LET'S GET OUT AND SHOP LOCALLY,' CALL

Support the 'lifeblood of local communities' on Small Business Saturday

RETAILERS and local politicians are urging people in general to support 'Small Business Saturday' by getting out and shopping at local, independent businesses on December 5.

Small Business Saturday UK is a grassroots, non-commercial campaign, which highlights small business success and encourages consumers to 'shop local' and support small businesses in their communities.

The day itself takes place on the first shopping Saturday in December each year, but the campaign aims to have a lasting impact on small businesses.

Described as the "lifeblood of the economy, it was revealed this week by Welsh Government statisticians that there have been 13,735 new start-ups since 2011.

Economy Minister Edwina Hart AM said: "Over 99 per cent (almost 218,000) of businesses in Wales are Small and Medium-size Enterprises (SMEs), and these employ 60 per cent of the people working in the private sector.

"Small Business Saturday is an opportunity to recognise the role of entrepreneurs and small businesses in building a strong economy, encouraging growth and creating jobs."

Small Business Saturday UK's website at the moment features 100 small businesses, and a glance at this (*https://www.smallbusinesssaturdayuk.com*) only goes to show how many bright ideas are out there – ideas that add to the variety of life, and which may well grow into something much bigger.

With the number 100 in mind, Vale MP Alun Cairns set out to visit traders in Barry, Llantwit, Cowbridge and Dinas Powys to encourage shoppers to use their local shops on what will be one of the busiest shopping days of the year.

He said: "Small businesses are a vital part of the Vale. The first Small Business Saturday took place in 2013, since then businesses in Barry and across the Vale have benefitted from recognition of the contribution they make to our towns and villages.

"It is a real shot in the arm for smaller, independent traders to welcome local customers."

There was also support from the Vale AM, Jane Hutt, who said: "I am proud to support Small Business Saturday and will be doing my Christmas shopping on the great Barry High street!

"Small Business Saturday encourages consumers to 'shop local' and this chimes with the work that the Welsh Government is doing through its own 'support your high street campaign' and rate relief scheme."

The leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies AM, is encouraging residents across the Vale to support their local high streets and businesses on Saturday.

He said: " Napoleon once described the UK as a nation of shopkeepers, and that's certainly true in the Vale, where small businesses make a huge contribution to the local economy.

"Our small businesses are the lifeblood of our local communities and where possible we must do all we can to support them.

"As a regular user of the high streets in Cowbridge and the rest of the Vale, I would urge people to shop local and take the time to visit your high street and offer your support."

(SEE FACING PAGE)

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Celebrate entrepreneurial spirit…and use it or lose it!'

Small businesses can only thrive with our local public's support

by local business owner
FAY BLAKELEY

SMALL businesses are vital to local communities – they're often the springboard for independent entrepreneurs and bring diversity to the High Street.

Britain is rightly known throughout the world for its creativity, and small businesses are a breeding ground for creative ideas.

We should all support them.

In today's economy it's a 'use it or lose it' situation. Small businesses can only thrive in the communities they serve if those communities value them and get behind them.

A day like Small Business Saturday is not only a celebration of entrepreneurial spirit, it's a great reminder to us all of the value of the businesses on our doorsteps.

SHOP LOCAL
Support Local Businesses
SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY
5TH DECEMBER

'Lights put town on map ready for Small Business Saturday'

SATURDAY night's Holton Road Christmas lights show was another example of Barry putting itself on the map.

As the local councillor, I was proud to see King Square packed with families enjoying themselves at the spectacle, watching the 3D animation on the Town Hall and joining in the countdown, and that, after the awful weather all day, the rain stayed away at the right time!

Special thanks go to the Vale Council and staff, especially town centres manager Mari-Wyn Elias Jones for her hard work throughout the year to put the event on, and the staff of TL Computer Systems on Holton Road, who organised the town centre's Christmas market during the day.

With Small Business Saturday coming this weekend, why not take another look at our town centre for your presents, and see what else you can do to make Barry thrive over the Christmas period and into the New Year?

Coun Ian Johnson,
Barry,
Plaid Cymru – the Party of Wales.

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FOCUS ON DEMENTIA

'You find out who your friends are...People stop inviting you to things'

CARERS and people living with dementia are supporting Cardiff and Vale University Health Board's 'Dementia December', a local initiative to raise awareness of the disease.

A UHB spokesperson reports: The campaign, supported by University Health Board (UHB) staff, aims to improve the experiences of people with dementia and their carers. The focus is on giving workers the knowledge and understanding to enhance the service they provide, during a stressful and confusing time for patients.

Jackie Askey, of Llandaff, cared for her husband George for 12 years following his diagnosis. He passed away in January of this year. Jackie praised the UHB's efforts to help staff support patients in a confident and empathetic way.

She said: "We need to help people with dementia lead as full a life as possible. This is a lifeline to the person with dementia and a lifeline to the carer."

Jackie urges health workers and people in the community to see the person beyond the dementia: "They still have an awful lot to give. The dementia is only a very small part of them and does not make the whole person."

As part of Dementia December, the UHB is working with its Dementia Champions, members of staff committed to helping dementia patients and carers. This includes techniques such as using simple sentences and gaining eye-contact.

Cardiff and Vale UHB has also been working in Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan to develop Dementia Friendly Communities, an Alzheimer's Society scheme designed to make communities more welcoming and inclusive. The UHB has collaborated with partners such as South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, City of Cardiff Council, the Vale Council and third sector organisations.

Cardiff West and Barry will celebrate working towards their Dementia Friendly Communities status on December 9. The event, at Barry Memorial Hall, acknowledges the ongoing commitment to supporting people with dementia in the community. With the number of people with dementia in Cardiff and the Vale expected to increase from 5,000 to over 8,000 by 2030, this is an important step.

Sharon Hopkins, Director of Public Health, welcomed the news. She said: "Living with dementia can be difficult for patients, as well as their family, friends and carers. It is important that UHB staff, as well as people living and working in our communities, take small but important steps such as speaking clearly and listening."

With Christmas approaching, it is important to remember that some people may be struggling or feeling isolated.

Jackie Askey remembers how George's diagnosis affected their social life: ***"You find out who your friends are... People stop inviting you to things."***

Staff across the UHB will be working together during Dementia December and in the future, to ensure that people like Jackie and George are supported, during the festive period and beyond.

Rugby boys pitch in to help refugees

OPERATION Christmas Child received a boost from members of the academy section at Cardiff Blues, who went to the warehouse in Llandow to help load a container lorry, which is now on its way to Kyrgyzstan, Romania and to refugee camps in Europe.

'Follow Parc model for prison visits' – REPORT URGES

PRISON visit rules risk keeping thousands of families apart, the Barnardo's charity has warned.

Prisons should adopt the HMP Parc Bridgend model, and view visits as a family intervention, rather than a security risk, it maintains in a report this week.

"The prison system in Wales and England is jeopardising thousands of children's rights to see their dads, and family visits should not be used to discipline prisoners," it states.

Over 17,000 children visit prisons each month, Barnardo's survey of the prison visiting system Locked Out reveals. They are part of the estimated 200,000 children with a parent in prison.

"Children have a right under the United Nations to contact with both their parents. For children with a parent in prison, visits are crucial in maintaining these relationships and can help cut down re-offending by 39 per cent.

"However, visiting hours are increasingly being taken away to punish prisoners following changes to the 'Incentives and Earned Privileges' (IEP) scheme, leaving some children with just two hours a month to visit dad."

The report also finds that children are regularly being searched by guards in intrusive interactions that see items such as breast-milk sniffed, hair searched and personal effects such as hair decorations taken away.

Despite no clear evidence existing that parents use children to smuggle drugs, one boy reports 'Feeling like you've done something wrong'.

Barnardo's is calling for changes in the way children of prisoners are treated in Wales and England. This includes effectively banning using visiting hours to punish and reward prisoners in male prisons.

ROMILLY CHRISTMAS FETE

THE PTA at Romilly Primary School is holding a Christmas fete this Saturday (December 5), from 12 noon until 4pm, when stalls include crafts, bric-a-brac, games, cakes and raffles, plus Santa's grotto.

Sam Carpenter, chair of Romilly Primary School PTA, said: "We are building on the success of last year's fete, and hope that the community will get behind this year's event, which we hope will raise funds for equipment that the children need."

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2015/01225/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Proposed installation of an ATM through the glazed shop front as a through glass installation to the left of the entrance door. ATM Wincor Procash 2050 fascia and Co-operative food polycarbonate green surround signage. White non illuminated lettering `free cash withdrawals` and `The Co-operative food`
Location:/Lleoliad:	Co Operative Food, 57, High Street, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Cowbridge
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2015/01260/ADV
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Proposed installation of an ATM through the glazed shop front as a through glass illumination to the left of the entrance door. ATM Wincor Procash 2050 fascia and Cooperative food polycarbonate green surround signage. White non illuminated lettering free cash Withdrawals and The Co-operative food
Location:/Lleoliad:	Co-operative Food, 57, High Street, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Cowbridge
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2015/01262/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Replace 2 windows currently aluminium framed double glazed with UPVC sash sliding double glazed
Location:/Lleoliad:	37, Westbourne Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Penarth
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2015/01298/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Repairs and improvements to the existing Old Harbour revetment in the interests of flood prevention and the construction of a new footway / cycleway across the revetment to create a new route linking the Barry Island Causeway to the Old Harbour Car park
Location:/Lleoliad:	Harbour Road Causeway, Barry Island, Barry
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Barry (Marine)

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2015/01183/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Change of use to D2 Leisure/Sports Area, to include internal sports pitches, sports facilities, car parking provision, bar area, community cafe and conference rooms, offices and sport shop etc.
Location:/Lleoliad:	Cambria House, Penarth Road, Penarth
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2015/01305/RES
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Development of site known as South Quay (Parkside) for residential development and associated infrastructure works, parking servicing and landscape
Location:/Lleoliad:	Site known as South Quay, Barry Waterfront, Barry

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 3 December, 2015

V. L. Robinson
Operational Manager, Regeneration and Planning, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

PACT meetings

STANWELL PACT *on Friday, December 4 at Elfed Avenue Church at 5pm.*

DYFAN PACT *on Sunday, December 6 at Highlight Park Community Centre at 7.30pm.*

BARUC PACT *on Monday, December 7 at St Barucs Church, Phyllis Street, Barry Island at 6.30pm.*

ILLTYD PACT *on Thursday, December 10 at Aberthaw House Hotel, Porthkerry Road, Barry at 3pm.*

SULLY PACT *on Thursday, December 10 at the Cricket Pavilion, Burnham Avenue Sully at 6.30pm..*

Colitis awareness week highlighted

A WELSH Conservative regional AM, Dr Altaf Hussain, is supporting international Crohn's and Colitis Awareness Week (December 1 – 7); highlighting the impact of living with Crohn's Disease or ulcerative colitis, the two main forms of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD).

These are unpredictable diseases that affect more than 300,000 people in the UK and approximately 15,000 people in Wales.

'More clarity needed on the Metro scheme'

AS the Welsh Government published its proposals for the south Wales Metro project this week, leader of the Welsh Conservatives and South Wales Central AM, Andrew RT Davies, commented: "The Metro must be more than just colourful lines on a publicity campaign's map.

"We need further clarity on how the scheme will work in practice and how gaps in service throughout the Vale of Glamorgan will be filled.

"We need more leadership on the introduction of a Metro system if its benefits are ever to be fully realised for residents in the Vale," he said.

Penarth Local History Society

THERE is a change of speaker for the December 10 meeting – the speaker will now be Ron Powell,talking about 'Shropshire to the Falklands', at All Saints' lesser church hall, Penarth at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome.

Festive walks

RAMBLERS CYMRU groups will be leading free walks from December 19 until January 3, from short festive strolls to heartier rambles to kick-start New Year resolutions!

Ramblers Cymru director Angela Charleton said: "Winter is one of the best times to go out for a walk in Wales."

For further information, visit www.ramblers.org.uk/winterwalks.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Festive crafts at St Donats

CRAFTS for Christmas returns to St Donat's Castle this Sunday (December 6), bringing a mix of handmade crafts and food stalls to the Vale of Glamorgan, from 10.30am-4.30pm.

There are over 50 stalls to browse, including some first time exhibitors such as Cothi Valley Produce, Baked by Mel, and Welsh Slate Wall Art.

There will also be a bird of prey display in the castle gardens, and for younger visitors, a craft workshop and visit from Santa!

In addition to the craft and food stalls, there will be live music all day to keep everyone entertained. *Admission is £6 per car, or £2 per person on foot.*

Christmas choir concert

A CHRISTMAS concert by the Cantorion Creigiau Choir takes place at the Old School in Sully on Saturday, December 12 at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £7.50 and are available from Ian Mathias on 02920 530441, Ken Jones on 02920 530893 or Steve Thomas on 02920 531486.

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Family Notices

RANDELL
Mary Beatrix

Peacefully on November 20 at The Manor House, St. Hilary, Trixie of Llantwit Major, beloved wife of the late David, dearly loved mother of Simon and Sarah.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday, December 7, service 12 noon at St. Illtuds Church, Llantwit Major, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium Bridgend at 1.15pm. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care c/o J James, 11 Fonmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

SMITH
Elizabeth Mary

Passed away peacefully on the November 28, Elizabeth of Llantwit Major, aged 94 years. Much loved mother of Derek, Diane, Elaine, Margaret and Ian, and a loving grandmother and great grandmother.

Resting at W. A. Brown & Son College, Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Friday, December 18 in St Illtud's Church at 12.30pm, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.45pm. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

LEWIS
Vivien (Née Wellington)

Died at home after a long illness on December 1. Much loved wife of Clive and mother to Rosey, Chris and Margaret, grandmother and great grandmother, will be sadly missed.

Funeral service at St John the Baptist Church, Llanblethian on Thursday, December 10 at 2.15pm, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations if desired to the British Heart Foundation c/o Mr Jack Hawkins, 47 Cae Leon, Barry CF62 9TF.

LEADBITTER
Anthony (Tony)
(of Bwlch Gwyn Farm, Ystradowen)

The funeral service will take place on Friday, December 4 at 1.45pm at Bridgend Crematorium, followed afterwards at The Bear Hotel, Cowbridge.

Family flowers only, but donations, if wished, to Ward 2 East, Llandough Hospital in his memory.

GODWARD
Kevin

Suddenly on October 6 at Llandough Hospital, loving brother to Lynda and Denise, much loved uncle to all his nephews, nieces and sister-in-law Ruth.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday, December 10, service and cremation 1.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request.

MAYLIN
Eric John

Peacefully after a long illness on November 24 at Holme Tower, Penarth, Eric John, aged 72 years of Barry. Dearly loved husband of Theresa. Loving father of Mark, Dawn, Andrea, and father-in-law of Rose, Roger and Luke. Cherished grandfather of Luke, Zoe, Bethany, Lydia, Kieran, Dylan and Caitlin.

Eric will be sadly missed by all of his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son funeral home, Gladstone Road, Barry, where flowers may be sent until the funeral on Wednesday, December 9. Service in the chapel at 11.30am, afterwards Interment at Barry Cemetery.

CHAPPLE
Dilys (Née Williams)

Peacefully on November 27 at Llandough Hospital - Dilys, well known of Barry Road and a keen skittler in Barry. Devoted wife to the late Douglas, much loved mum of Gwyn, Jane, Jennifer and Alun. Special mother-in-law of Pamela, Geoff and Linda. Cherished nan to her grandchildren and nanny Dilys to her great grandchildren. Loving sister of Nancy and the late Olwen and Gwyn.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Dilys is being cared for by Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Monday, December 14 at 11am.

Family flowers only - donations if desired may be made at the service to The Stroke Association in memory of Dilys.

WILLIAMS
Geraint Elis *(Giz)*

The family wish to announce the sudden passing of Geraint on November 15 in Australia. Cherished son of Robert & Julie, much loved brother of Nia & Non, loved uncle to Megan, Elis and Robyn, loving fiancé to Christie.

Geraint will be greatly missed by all his family and many friends.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry, until his service at their Windsor Road Chapel, on Friday, December 11 at 1.45pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium.

Single flower only.

BUBBINS
Doris

Peacefully at home, on November 27, surrounded by her family, Doris Evelyn, wife of the late Bob. Mother of Jennifer, David, Gillian, Jonathan, mother in law of Peter, Janet, Cliff and Glynis. Grandmother of Helen, Eleanor, Kate and the late Jeremy.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry, until the funeral on Monday, December 7. Funeral service and committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry, where family and friends please meet at 12 noon.

Donations to Marie Curie Holme Tower, Bridgeman Road, Penarth CF64 3YR.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
Patricia Trudgian

Never a moment from our thoughts.

Love John, Jeremy, Jonathan, Jenny and all the family x.

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Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE LICENSING ACT 2003 TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I Geraint Simmonds do hereby give notice that I have applied to the Licensing Authority (Vale of Glamorgan Council) for the variation of a premises license at Wick Road, Ewenny, CF35 5AD, known as Ewenny Garden Centre Limited.

The application is to vary the licence to enable in house and off sale of alcohol from 9.00hrs until 18.00hrs, Monday to Saturday and from 10.30hrs until 16.30hrs on Sundays.

Any persons wishing to make representations to this application may do so in writing to the Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF6 3RU, not later than 28 days after the date of this notice.

Representations received after this date will not be considered.

A copy of the application can be viewed at the Civic Offices during normal office hours.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application. The maximum fine on summary conviction being £5000.

Date - 27th November 2015.

Notice under Trustee Act 1925 s 27

Re: John Charles Pagler

PURSUANT to the Trustee Act 1925 NOTICE is given that all creditors and others having any claims against or claiming to be beneficially interested in the estate of John Charles Pagler, late of 14 Wordsworth Close, Llantwit Major, CF61 1WZ, who died on the 17th February 2015, and whose will was proved in the Probate Registry of Wales on 12th August 2015 by Jane Dorothy Pagler and Janet Louise Telles, the Executors named in it, are required to send particulars in writing to the undersigned solicitors on or before the 7th February 2016 after which date the said executors will proceed to distribute the assets of the deceased among the persons entitled to them, having regard only to the claims of which they then have had notice and shall not be liable for the assets of the deceased or any part of them so distributed to any person or persons of whose claims or demands they then have not had notice.

Dated 1st December 2015.
LG Williams & Prichard
22 St Andrews Crescent
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Solicitors for the Executors
Ref: SH/SB/PAG398/2
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Closing date: **9th December 2015** Interviews: **TBC**
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I'm a disabled lady living in Llantwit Major is looking to employ a personal assistant to assist and support with domestic duties around my home and in the community.

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New year decision on Vale Housing – LOCAL RESIDENT LOOKS AT THE STATISTICS...

IT is two years since I wrote to The GEM about the LDP's housing projections – and the council have now produced their latest briefing paper on housing provision, using the latest WG statistics.

This paper is available on the Vale website and makes entertaining reading. It is a document which appears to start out with a number in mind and attempts to justify it.

As before, the paper and the LDP projects that the Vale population will rise from 126,000 living in 53,500 households to 132,500 by 2026 (this is a Welsh Government (WG) projection based on 2011 census details). A projected population increase of 6,500 (5 per cent) for the period.

The new WG statistics state that there is a projected requirement for 5,559 additional houses between 2011 and 2026. However, the WG has also introduced a 10-year migration variant which if used takes the required number of houses up to 7,399.

This is still too low for the council so the paper explores all of the reasons why the figure should be higher. This includes saying the period of the census and current projections etc. was at a time of low economic growth and in particular the Vale forms part of the regional housing plan and a special economic growth area.

A consultant (BE group) was used to project that an additional 1,000 to 1,602 dwellings could be required to cover this rise in jobs so the figure of 1,602 was added to the total. Then add another 499 to reflect the regional role and maintain affordable housing. This gives a grand total of 9,500 and when 10 per cent flexibility is added, you arrive at the figure you first thought of 10,450. Magic!!

I read the paper with growing disbelief. The paper points out that although the majority of objections to the required numbers were that they were too high but there was a significant number stating they were too low. These were all house builders!

The report also didn't mention that the council and government have been trying to increase jobs in the area for the last 20 years, with lots of business land available, with limited success. The paper also mentions that over 4,500 affordable houses require to be built over the next five years and the LDP states that the majority of these are required in the Barry area. How does the plan address this fact?

The inspector has started to hear objections to the LDP and in January there are two meetings to discuss housing numbers. It was a bit disappointing to see that a significant number of the participants are people with a financial interest in having a high number of houses built i.e. house builders.

It is clear that the council must use the latest WG projections as a starting point for their projections and demonstrate that the requirement for additional houses is based on sound evidence.

I would just state that the UK projection for increase in house numbers in Wales as a whole over the period is 10.2 per cent. Why then does the council think that the Vale needs an increase of 18 per cent?

Mike Carney, Cowbridge.

'No to offer of meeting'

I REFER to the letter last week from Coun Gwyn John of Llantwit Major, where he questioned my letter from the previous issue of The GEM regarding street lighting in Llantwit Major.

I am certainly not a mischief maker, I am not in the habit of writing letters without first of all gathering some facts, a lot of which come from the council themselves.

I would also like to make it quite plain that the information regarding the street lighting in Llantwit Major actually came from a parent who has a daughter who lives in Llantwit, who confirmed that the street lights are not turned off.

Mr John invites me to a meeting with himself and officers to explain some of the issues that I have written about in previous letters.

I am afraid I will turn that invitation down, as I feel if the council need to explain issues, they can explain it to all the people.

DJ Radford, Barry.

Church tree festival in Barry

THE fourth Christmas tree festival at St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry, opens at 6.30pm on December 9, after judging of the trees by Vale Mayor, Coun Fred Johnson, Barry Town Mayor Coun Emma Pritchard and Jane Hutt, local Assembly Member.

Barry's Lee Selby, IBF Featherweight Champion will switch on the lights.

A concert will begin at 7pm with Cadoxton School choir, and their drum section.

Geoff Peart will present some traditional folk music, concluding with the talented youngsters from Superstars. Tickets £4 each (includes refreshments) all children admitted free.

St Mary's Church will then be open from 10am to 4.30pm on December 10 and December 11.

School choirs will entertain over the two days, including Oakfield Primary, Jenner Park Primary, St Helen's Primary, Gladstone Infants, Barry Island Primary and St Baruc Welsh Primary.

On December 12 Father Christmas will be dropping in at 9am for breakfast with the girls and boys. Tickets for this will be £5 with a gift for every child. Parents' breakfast £2.50. The church will then be open from 10.30am to 1.30pm for the viewing of trees.

At 2pm there will be an afternoon of carols and folk music, plus St Athan Junior Brass Band, People's First Charity, The Real Lives Choir, and St Helen's Primary School Choir. Winners of the Christmas tree festival will be announced and certificates will be presented to the winners of the three categories by the Vale Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor Coun Charlotte Williams and Jane Hutt AM. Tickets for this event are £3 (includes refreshments) children admitted free.

A donation from the festival will be made to the Llanmau charity. Contact Susan on 07866 078665 or 01446 747928 for more details.

WALES MANAGER OPENS JENNER PARK'S NEW 'STATE OF THE ART' 3G SURFACE

A NEW chapter was marked in the proud history of Jenner Park stadium in Barry last Thursday when Wales manager Chris Coleman officially opened the new 3G artificial playing surface.

He marked the occasion by kicking the first ball in a football festival featuring 160 youngsters from primary schools across the Vale.

Coleman was also presented with a gift by pupils at nearby Jenner Park Primary school to congratulate him on his success as the national boss.

The new pitch, installed following a six-figure investment by the Vale Council, is part of an ambitious plan to open the stadium up to the community and secure its future as the premier sporting venue in the Vale.

Speaking at the opening Chris Coleman commended the renovation, saying: "Football, like any sport, starts in the community and we need facilities like this one if we are going to nurture the next generation of sporting stars.

"Barry has a proud footballing history. The new pitch will be great for Barry Town United and hopefully will help propel them back into the Welsh Premier League, but the real benefit will be to the children playing here and the community as a whole.

"Credit must go to the Vale Council for having the vision to make this happen and for making a major investment which will pay dividends for many years to come."

Jenner Park faced an uncertain future earlier this year as its high running costs were unsustainable in light of the unprecedented financial challenges being faced by the Vale Council.

However, the installation of the new pitch will not only see costs cut but also use of the stadium made available to the whole community.

Coun Gwyn John, cabinet member for visible services and leisure, said: "The easy decision would have been to simply close the doors to Jenner Park for good. Thankfully for all of those that value sport, the Vale of Glamorgan Council had the vision to develop a better facility and new way of managing it that will ensure this historic ground is used for generations to come.

"It is the council's aim to get more people living more active lives and the renovation of Jenner Park will help us take a huge step forward towards this goal.

"The new Jenner Park will be somewhere where children and young people can develop their skills on a perfect playing surface and where adults at all levels can play the game they love in a first class facility."

Gavin Chesterfield, manager of Barry Town United FC, said: "Jenner Park is renowned throughout Welsh football and beyond. There have been many great nights throughout the stadium's proud 102 year history. However, the installation of the new surface has given the stadium a new lease of life and it is now a hive of sporting activity.

"As a club, the new pitch has opened up many possibilities in terms of how we engage the local community and we will be announcing many exciting new ventures in the coming weeks and months. To complement the launch of the new pitch the club has given out 300 free tickets to children and their families for our upcoming Welsh Cup third round tie versus Denbigh Town on December 5."

Work on the new playing surface was completed in October and the pitch has since received FIFA's highest level of accreditation, FIFA Pro. The artificial surface has already seen action at levels ranging from mini-football to Barry Town United FC's home games in the Welsh Football League Division 1.

As part of the same programme of work being undertaken by the council, construction is soon to begin on four smaller five-a-side pitches at the Colcot Sports Centre in Barry. Along with the upgraded Jenner Park these pitches will provide a suite of surfaces within the Vale's largest town that can be played on by all sections of the community 365 days a year.

Michelin CrossClimate launched – IS THIS A GAME CHANGER?

IN the UK, we experience every sort of winter driving condition. Heavy snow in 2012, the cold and wet winter of 2014, the mild and warm winter of 2015 - the UK really is an unpredictable climate.

This unpredictability makes tyre choices for the British winters difficult. Without question, winter tyres are the right tyre for freezing and snowy conditions, but with the last few winters characterised by warm wet conditions, a summer tyre would be the smarter choice overall.

A Barry Tyre Centre spokesman said: "This has led us to start recommending 'all season' tyres as the correct tyre to fit in the winter.

"All season tyres offer approximately 85 per cent of a summer tyre's performance in the dry and wet, and 85 per cent of a winter tyre's performance in the snow which gives them a slightly better operation window for the UK than a full winter.

"While this balance of qualities is the best compromise currently available, the ideal tyre for the UK tyre market is a tyre which offers 99 per cent of a summer tyre's performance in the dry and wet, yet still offers the ability to perform in snow and ice for those few days a year we see adverse conditions.

"The good news is Michelin claim to have done exactly that with the new Michelin CrossClimate.

"The Michelin CrossClimate is the world's first summer tyre which can be used in winter conditions. TUV-tested, the new CrossClimate really does seem to be the magic bullet for the UK climate, with 99 per cent of a summer tyre's performance in the dry and wet, and 100 per cent of a winter tyre's performance in snow traction and braking.

"Is this too good to be true? Fortunately we've had some experience driving on this tyre, and we're happy to report it seems to do exactly as Michelin/TUV claim."

SEE THE BARRY TYRE CENTRE ADVERT ON PAGE 43.

New captain Liz Fine prepares to 'drive in'.

Liz starts her year in office

ON November 24, the new ladies' captain at Brynhill Golf Club, Mrs Liz Fine, was blessed with a break in the bad weather for her 'drive-in'.

Supported by the ladies' section, Liz duly got her year in office under way with a great second drive down the first fairway, her first being an exploding ball!

Previously, all the ladies paid money to guess where Liz's ball might land. The winner of this competition was Mrs Helena Coombes.

The day's golf competition was won by Lynda Lloyd with 17 points. Runner-up was Linda Hewlett with 14 points. Liz's chosen charity for this year is Wales Air Ambulance.

CH/LT

CLUB SIGN OFF 2015 IN STYLE!

The students shone at the recent WOMAA Championships.

FOLLOWING on from their recent success at the GTI British Open, the Cadoxton School of Tae Kwon Do competed in their last tournament of 2015.

The World Organization of Martial Arts Athletes British Open Championships (WOMAA) were hosted by Master Mal Johns & Leanne Emmerson.

The Cadoxton squad took advantage of the categories available on the day, points fighting, continuous fighting, kumite, patterns and weapons for all ages and levels.

The Cadoxton squad brought home with them a total of 54 medals - 16 gold, 25 silver, 13 bronze and 16 WOMAA British Champions.

The club already has a full 2016 calendar; after Christmas the squad will again be full training for local events and internationals in Birmingham, Liverpool, Germany and the USA.

Pictured above with their instructors and coaches are Matthew Bennett, Peter O'Callaghan, Lucy Newman, Keita Enfield, Ron Thomas; Jake Quigley, Cameron Evans, Ethan Andrus, Joel wells, Cian Allen, Lucia Cunningham; Charlie Rogers, Maddison Allen, Leland Butler & Cody Jacobsen.

For further information call (01446) 406372. **RT**

Pencoed RFC hold out for well-deserved victory...

THE Dulais Valley can be the most foreboding of venues, but on this occasion the Pencoed side rose to the challenge against the odds to record a fine 16-10 victory against a Seven Sisters side occupying fourth place in Division 1 West Central.

Pencoed won a couple of early turnovers through the efforts of back row forward Rhys Watkins and scrum half Kyle Barrett, with second row Dano Howells particularly prominent with a couple of determined charges.

The home game plan soon became quite clear, their pack aiming to bludgeon their way through the Pencoed ranks, often doubling and tripling up numbers in their efforts to force their way through.

This was the pattern for the opening 20 minutes before another close up assault saw home hooker Jordan Roderick cross close to the posts, wing threequarter Andrew Thomas adding the extras.

Despite the driving play of the home pack the Pencoed front row of skipper Kieron Moore, hooker Tom Drew, and loose head Christian Powell were getting the better of the close quarter exchanges at the scrummage and this ascendancy gave them the platform for outside half Adam Williams to open his side's account with a well judged 30 metre penalty goal in the blustery conditions.

Pencoed left wing David Young then did well to clear a dangerous situation in his own 22 to clear to touch and despite a few problems at the lineout Pencoed returned to the attack.

Williams probed with a short kick into the home 22, where chasing centre Gareth Dyer caught home full back Daniel Norton in possession and from the resultant penalty Williams made matters 7-6.

Pencoed were now starting to put some phases together to enjoy their best moments of the half and keep the home side under pressure.

A series of scrums in the home 22 saw Pencoed cement their authority at the set scrummage and only desperate home defence kept their line intact.

Pencoed, having lost hard working second row Ricky Somers relatively early in the match, were forced into positional changes, Aaron Halse moving to the boilerhouse with Rhys Vowles taking his place in the back row, the centre doing well in his emergency role.

Pencoed's pack problems were compounded at the interval with the loss of Halse through injury, Powell moving into the second row with young Brandon Nelson on at prop forward.

Pencoed's revamped pack then destroyed a home scrummage and as a result Williams kicked the penalty goal to go into the lead at 7-9.

The home side attacked from the restart and Rhys Clarke playing at right wing did well to chase back and check the home raid before Pencoed regrouped to clear to touch.

Pencoed were now starting to play with confidence into the elements and following another dominant scrummage Pencoed increased their lead.

No 8 Gareth Prentice released Barrett who broke cleanly before timing his pass to supporting full back Rhys Thomas who raced in at the posts from 22 metres, Williams adding the conversion for a 7-16 lead.

The home side kept themselves in the match with a penalty goal from Thomas and at 10-16 it was still anyone's match in the fading valley light.

The ardent Pencoed support were to endure a tense final couple of minutes but despite several late scares their team held out for a well deserved victory full of character.

On Saturday a supporters coach will travel to Skewen for a 2.30pm kick-off.

TR

We welcome your sports news - email us at: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk*

Cowbridge darts league round-up

ON Tuesday November 24, the semi-finals and final of the mixed doubles were played at the Edmondes Arms.

After two very tight semi-final matches the final lineup was an all-Farmers Arms affair. In the final Maureen Fleming and Nigel Thomas (substitute Rob Jones) defeated Pam Adams and Tony Fox (substitute Owen Carter) 3-1.

Also that evening the postponed league match between Llanharry and the Edmondes B was played. It was a close game with Llanharry coming out winners 5-4.

Present league standings, after seven weeks, are now: Edmondes B (39 points), Farmers Arms and Highwayman Inn (32), Edmondes C and Llanharry (31), Six Bells Inn (28), Edmondes A (27), Farmers B (H&H) (21) and Old Post Ladies (11).

Next week, Tuesday December 8, the last full programme of league matches (league week nine) before the Christmas and New Year break will be played.

The Old Post Ladies hosts the Highwayman Inn, the Edmondes A hosts the Farmers B (H&H), the Edmondes C hosts Llanharry and the Farmers Arms hosts the Edmondes B. The Six Bells Inn do not have a game.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

Seaview Lads results

THE first leg of the annual Christmas competition was fished on Sunday, November 29 in very high winds and torrential downpours - but this did nothing to deter a large turn-out of anglers.

An extra incentive was the chance to win the Wyndham Page Trophy commemorating one of our founding members.

Many anglers had only just returned from the annual trip to the Canaries where they had enjoyed halcyon summer like weather and excellent fishing.

Many landed rays approaching the 100lb mark along with the numerous exotic species including trumpet fish and barracuda. Their welcome home could not have been more different.

Hurricane force gusts of over 60 knots forced many fish to stay on their sea bed but enough did come out to ensure that many anglers caught something. Weights were not high overall; those anglers that weighed in managed a solitary fish or two, but Aida Harris weighed in almost 4kg on what was a challenging day to stand up, let alone fish!

Congratulations to all that braved the conditions and we eagerly await round two!

Results: 1st A Harris 3.82 kg, 2nd K Salah 2.94, 3rd M Langford 2.14, 4th C Mcinerery 1.61, 5th P Crook 1.52, 6th S Doble 1.32.

JC

Busy week for Barry chess club

ANOTHER busy week for the Barry Chess Club, with all four of its teams in the East Glamorgan League in action, together with the West Wales Chess Congress held at Llansamlet.

In the league there was the unusual event of both of the lower teams, Quarks and Gambits, winning their matches in divisions 3 and 4 respectively. Both teams recorded their second victories of the season with 3-2 away victories.

The Quarks won their match picking up the points on the three bottom boards. It could have been even better as there were winning opportunities on board 2.

This moves the Quarks up to eighth in the table. They remain in the relegation spot on tie break from Penarth on the basis that we lost 3.5 to 1.5 in our opening match of the season at home to Penarth. A big win in the return fixture in January could prove to be our most vital fixture/result in the season.

The Gambits found themselves outgraded on all boards as usual, but good wins from team captain Stephen Bonutto together with Jason Grice and Ray Denley, gave us an unexpected victory against one of the early season frontrunners.

The Gambits also sit in eighth position in the league but are more comfortable as there is no relegation from division 4.

In division 1 it was not so successful for our teams. The Bosons however earned a valuable point against the Cardiff Castles with a win for Matthew Parry over Walter Braun and draws for Matthew Davies, Steve Cunliffe and Dave Parsons.

The Camelots did not fare so well at North Cardiff, losing by 3.5 to 1.5 against the Woodpushers. However in perhaps the result of the season so far Sam Jukes beat Peter Heaven; Peter has a ranking of 2144 while Sam's ranking is 1713.

The Bosons sit comfortably in third place. It seems unlikely that they will be able to maintain a strong challenge for the title but we can live in hope.

The Camelots are in ninth place above the already seemingly marooned St John's College Positrons. The Camelots remain three points from safety but with a poor tie break score. Relegation, while not a certainty, is looming!

In the West Wales Congress there were 30 entries including past and present members Lee Davis, Joe Turner and Nigel Ralphs in the Open Section, while in the Major Section the club was represented by Stephen Bonutto.

Lee finished in ninth place with four draws and a win from his five games. Joe was less successful with two wins and a draw from his five games to finish 19th.

Nigel took a bye in round 1 - this can sometimes give an easier route in the next rounds but that is not always the case. This time Nigel drew matches in the next three rounds, only losing to Joe Fathallah of the Cardiff club in round 5. Nigel finished in 21st place. All three of these players were seeded to finish higher than then actually did.

In the Major section, Stephen, who travelled with Nigel, also took a bye. Stephen was seeded to finish 12th out of the 14 competitors in this section.

He beat Kevin O'Rourke from the Caerphilly Club in round three, losing his other three matches to finish with 1.5 points. He actually finished in 12th place so was the only Barry-linked player to achieve their correct seeded position.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club. St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PHIL JONES

We welcome your sports news, reports - and other items of interest - email us at: *gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk*

News from Dinas Powys lady golfers

There were plenty of awards at Dinas Powis Golf Club ladies section annual presentation

ON November 17, Dinas Powis Golf Club ladies section held their annual presentation of trophies for the current year.

We offer our congratulations to all the winners for a successful season (pictured above).

On November 3, a Turkey Trot 2 Stableford was held - 1st Annie Blackburn 22pts, 2nd Sue Bridle 16pts, 3rd Sally Livsey Davies 15pts on countback from Lisa Ryley and Vicki Ellison.

On November 10, Turkey Trot 3 Medal - 1st Annie Blackburn 46 - 10.5 = 35.5nett, 2nd Sue Bridle 45 - 8.5 = 36.5, 3rd Ann Mahenthiralingam 46 - 6.5 = 39.5.

On November 17, Turkey Trot 4 Stableford - 1st Lisa Ryley 19pts, 2nd Annie Blackburn 15pts, 3rd Maxine Hird 12pts.

RY

Tournament success for local youngsters

RECENTLY, Barry Kyokushin Karate club hosted and competed in the second annual Wales Kyokushin Open Tournament.

Up first were the kata (pattern) competitors. Angel Benavant was first to place, gaining first place and her first Welsh Championship title in the six to eight year old division, against 10 other competitors who had a lot more experience.

Next to compete was Dominika Mielkilzuk who was unfortunately just pipped for first place, but came home with a fantastic second place.

In the 10 to 13 year old kata, the club secured all three places. After an incredibly tough two rounds against much higher-graded competitors, Justine Bolanos achieved a very well deserved third place.

Leanne Lirio achieved second place after impressing the judges, and for the second year running Ben Bolanos achieved his second first place and retained his Welsh Champion title.

Next up was Luke Murphy, who at the start of this month achieved his second kyu (brown belt).

Luke performed two excellent katas and was incredibly unfortunate to be just pipped for first place, but came home with a fantastic and well deserved second place.

Claire Norman was next in the Kyu grade adult kata and performed two fantastic katas. Having only trained for a little over a year, Claire got third place in her category after some very tough and experience kata competitors.

Finally, Rhian Evans, who achieved her second kyu along with Luke earlier this year, was up in the Black Belt category against several much higher graded, very well seasoned international competitors.

After a very tough second round Rhian achieved first place and the Welsh Champion title for the second year running.

Rhian has won four national titles in kata in the three years she has been training.

To next compete were the kids WUKO competitors. Sebastian Barzewski was first to place after several tough fights. Sebastian won his semi-final fight and sailed through to the final where he faced a great competitor. Sebastian came away with a fantastic second place trophy.

Next to compete was Justine Bolanos in an incredibly tough WUKO category. Justine got through to the finals – a round robin against two other fantastic competitors, and came away with an incredible second place after three very difficult fights.

Ben Bolanos was up next against WUKO competitors that were much taller and bigger than him, but stood his own, and achieved a fantastic third place to add to his first place in kata.

Paul Lambert was next to fight in male clicker against several younger and higher graded competitors.

After a fantastic first three rounds where Paul came out victorious, he entered the final against an international competitor from Denmark.

After an incredibly close fight, Paul achieved an absolutely incredible second place, losing his final fight by just one point.

Tyrone Conway was then to fight in the Novice Knockdown men's lightweight.

After some very gruelling rounds and extensions, Tyrone achieved an absolutely fantastic third place in his first knockdown tournament.

The club committee decided to donate all the profits from this event to Sebastian Sargent, a local boy with cerebral palsy and autism.

Funds are being raised to buy him an all-terrain wheelchair, and the tournament raised just over £400, with local company Spartan Martial Arts and sports suppliers LTD helping to round the figure up to £500.

Anyone wanting to donate can go to https://www.gofundme.com/7f487mdk.

PS

Indoor bowlers left 'disappointed' with away victory!

SULLY Bowls Championship team travelled to Bridgend on Saturday, November 21 to play Ogwr at the Indoor Bowling Green in the Leisure centre.

Sully were expecting a win as Ogwr are in a transitional period having lost a number of their star players, therefore Sully were looking for wins on most rinks.

Sully were in for a shock before the game began as the arena was cold as the heating system was not working; in fact the system was blowing out cold air.

The game began with Sully players wearing any tops or coats they could bowl in but this didn't stop them taking a eight shot lead after five ends, with four rinks ahead.

From ends six to 10 Sully were maintaining their form and had gone further by the end of the 10th, leading by 14 shots, 69-55.

Ken McLeod's rink was struggling against the Ogwr rink skipped by Jim Hoskins and were adrift by eight shots, while the rinks of Fred Phillips, Brian Griffiths and Chris Ackland were level with their opponents.

It was the rink of Graham Cogbill, Gary Eastment and Mike Doyle, skipped by the reliable Brian Foscolo and Martin Clarke-Squires' rink, who were ensuring the Sully lead.

As the game progressed it was still Foscolo's and Clarke-Squires' rinks enabling Sully to stay ahead, each leading by 22 shots and 13 shots respectively, while Sully's other four rinks were fighting hard to gain the initiative with the overall score at the 15th end 90-78 in Sully's favour.

Sully were now out of their comfort zone, only leading by a dozen shots with four of the six rinks behind going into the final six ends. It was now going to be a battle in the minds of the Sully players – from being super confident of a good win, the pressure was now on to hold onto a lead that Ogwr were eating into.

The 16th end saw Sully take eight shots across the rinks to move 20 shots ahead and ease the pressure but the rinks of Chris Ackland, Brian Griffiths and Ken McLeod lost more ground on their opponents over the closing ends, with Fred Phillips' rink having a tremendous tussle with Ogwr skip Brian Tucker over the last few ends, with the Sully rink finally succumbing by three shots.

The rinks of Ackland, Griffiths and McLeod also failed to get to grips with their opponents, losing their games by seven, six and six shots respectively.

Fortunately Foscolo's rink won decisively by 27 shots, 32-5, while Clarke-Squires' rink also had a resounding win by 16 shots, 29-13.

As a result of these two rinks Sully gained an overall win, 128-107. Although they gained 14 points out of 22 on offer, there was a slight disappointment that more rinks had failed to gain more points, but the win places Sully just eight points behind leaders Taff Ely and two points behind second-placed Newport - and both clubs have to come to Sully in the new year.

FP

Sports see games postponed

SULLY Sports RFC suffered a double cancellation last week with both the first and second teams having their games called off.

The firsts return to action on Saturday, December 5, away to Tongwynlais, kick off 2.30pm – meet at Sully Clubhouse 12.30pm, while the seconds are away to St Peters.

Last Friday, November 27, a reunion of older players/members was held at the clubhouse and it turned out to be a great success, with 20 'old-timers' enjoying a buffet, catching up on each other's current circumstances, lots of memories shared and stories of the past related.

Those present agreed that this social should become a regular occurrence, with efforts to trace and invite as many of past players/members as can be found to the next event, which will be held on Friday, January 29, and thereafter every two months on the last Friday of the month.

The venue for the reunion will rotate between Sully, Barry and Dinas Powys – watch this space.

Last Saturday saw a very successful 'hypnotist night' held at the club - many thanks to chairman Richard Gully for all his efforts in putting on the event.

A comedy night is in the pipeline for the New Year, and details will be published soon.

MS

Go to the **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news...
www.barry-today.co.uk
www.cowbridge-today.co.uk
www.llantwit-major-today.co.uk
www.bridgend-today.co.uk
www.porthcawl-today.co.uk

Barry seconds in pulsating draw

BARRY RFC seconds travelled to the capital to face Clwb Rygbi as they hope to build on the momentum from last weekend's win.

Coaches Rhidian Scott and Martin Tanner were yet again rocked with the late withdrawal of Curtis Miller hours before kick off, and were forced to reshuffle the pack.

There were recalls for Nick Rolfe, James Sullivan and Luke Bounds, while Joel Williams continued at fly-half after impressing last weekend from the bench.

In atrocious conditions at Llandaff Fields, both sides tried to play a brand of attractive running rugby from the off but soon regained common sense as the forwards took over.

It was the home side who adapted to the conditions quicker, taking advantage of some loose Barry tackling in the first quarter to score a try underneath the posts.

Barry were jolted into action and began to lay siege to the Clwb line. Buoyed by the dominant front row of Gareth Hall, Lee Turnbull and Ben Such, who were winning scrums with ease, Barry made inroads deep into the home 22 and were finally rewarded as following a series of forward drives, Rolfe powered over for his first try of the season. Matt Russell was successful with the conversion from an impossible angle out wide.

The momentum had swung and Barry continued to dominate in the set piece and were also winning the battle in the contact area.

Powerful surges from Remy Frenay, Lloyd Dutton and Ben Such saw another attack on the home line, and despite some desperate Clwb tackling, captain Kyle Case was the next to score. Russell added the extras to give Barry a 14-7 lead at half-time.

Barry seemed to be in control for most of the second half but with playing conditions deteriorating neither side could venture much into an attacking position. It was the home side who had more possession, and often found space out wide, but good cover tackling from Rhidian Mepham, Dutton and Frenay prevented any score.

It took the official to intervene as he controversially binned Case after an offence in the ruck, and with a mismatch in numbers the home side equalised with a try out wide.

With only 14 men Barry continued to probe and played a sensible game of tight rugby, putting the Clwb eight under enormous pressure.

Slowly gaining a foothold in an attacking position, the Barry forwards drove patiently for the line, and after a number of unsuccessful attempts, there was no stopping Dutton as he crashed over from two yards. Russell was again on target with his conversion to give Barry a seven point lead with just minutes to go.

Unfortunately just like last weekend, the green-and-whites failed to close out the game, and this time there was to be no reprieve as the home side took full advantage to score a try through some tired tackling as the game ended on a pulsating 21-21 draw.

While both management and players will agree there was room for improvement, the performance and effort in the last two weekends have been superb and after a slow start to the season Barry would hope to kick on for the rest of the campaign.

Barry second XV host Dinas Powys this weekend while the third XV are home to St Albans.

KC

The Barry and District ladies skittles league

LATEST results for November 16:

First division: Barry Stars (M Richards 34) 327, SV Gals (J Ladner, R Sewell, L Kingsman, J Richards) 310; Family Affair (D Brown 29) 233, Special Angels (P Grisdale 25) 237; Castle Bandits (P Thomas 27) 220, Coppers (S Ford 29) 255; Cigar Ladies (L Webb 30) 291, Bakers Dozen (E Baker 36) 329; Breakaways (C Parfitt 32) 292, Bobby's Girls (J Macdonald 28) 258; Colcot Ladies (K Tayloer 310) 272, Allsorts (C Griffiths 30) 252.

Second division: Clickies (M Harney 34) 312, Cad Con Fillies (T Clements 29) 292; Red Admiral (G Williams 26) 258, Castaways (S Billings 24) 207; After Eights (P Mepham 36) 308, Vixens (D Marks 31) 296; Rhoose Starlights (D Stradling 26) 263, Little Devils (L Bowsher , T Jones 27) 279; S V Lights (M Seixas 28) 267, Rhoose Ravers (J Bishop 27) 233; Witchill Widows (S Murray 30) 310, Merry Makers (C Edwards 34) 305.

Third division: Dolly Mixtures (P Grigham, E Bryan 24) 312, Hill Billies (G Moorcraft 22) 207; Roller Coasters (P Thomas 28) 219, Persuaders (J Neil, L Organ, G Hughes 21) 199; Friends and Neighbours (C Ferris, E Brown 26) 243, Westenders (J Andrews, L Lambeth 25) 238; Fallen Angels (J Tudor 30) 282, La Belles (R Closs, R Day 26) 264; Airways Angels (E Jones 27) 251, S V Ladies (C Griffriths 25) 214.

Fourth division: Hell Raisers (L Waters 25) 234, Guardian Angels (S Aston, S Clarke, J Overton 23) 206; Witches (M Allen, P Cookson 27) 234, Challengers (L Morgan 23) 216; Living On a Spare (E McLaggon 33) 295, Rebels (L Spurr 32) 319; Socialites (F Nolan, K Glover 29) 260, Uptown Girls (R Dutton, L Hobbs 26) 256; Liberals (S Boyd 22) 149, Off The Rails (I Rosser 24) 187; Nite Outers (M Hudson 25) 212, Odd Bopds (T Perry 23) 175.

Kanku Do impress at tournament

There was plenty of success for Kanku Do!

ON Saturday, November 21, Kanku Do took a squad of 11 to the second Welsh Kyokushin Karate tournament held at the Memo Barry.

First up were Charlotte Hewitson and Kasey Lewis with their well polished performances of kata. This earned Charlotte first place and her first ever trophy! Kasey was very unlucky not to place.

The 14-16 year kumite category saw Morgan Long claim first with a very accomplished and technical win against solid fighters.

The 12-14 year kumite category was always going to be a huge battle with five Kanku Do fighters in the same category!

After some brave displays the club took first, second and third places (Jack Long, Jack Garrett and Ellis Walker respectively).

The club very much enjoyed the day and are looking forward to next year already.

For information about joining please call to St David's Church Hall on a Tuesday from 7pm-8pm.

Squad: Morgan Long, Jack Long, Jack Garrett, Ashleigh Millard, Kyle Millard, Luca Cullinane, Ellis Walker, Charlotte Hewitson, Kasey Lewis and Tyler Donnelly.

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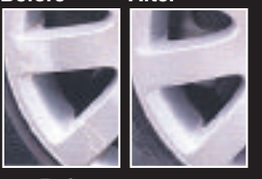

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Great success for Welsh Karate in English event

Josh Dwyer, Jack George and Harrison Williams, the Karate Wales under-15 team.

Leah Copeland was senior ladies double champion!

Emma Squire won the 15-17 girls open Kata.

A NUMBER of Vale Karate members were among the Karate Wales squad which competed at the UWK England Open recently.

The Kata events were first and Wales' first gold medal came from Vale Karate's talented 15-year-old Emma Squire, who won the girls 15-17 Kata, a great result as she was probably the youngest competitor in the category.

Wales' youngest squad member, Ellie-Jayne Farrugia (nine), took a bronze in the under-10 Kata while Chiara Baker (11) took a bronze in the 10-12 before stepping up to the 12-14 category, where she took another bronze!

Leah Copeland (21) took a silver medal in the ladies Shotokan event, where she was narrowly beaten by the Romanian multiple WUKF World champion Eva Kerekes, before putting in the Kata performances of her life to take the gold medal in the ladies open.

Jack George, although only 12, won the last Welsh Karate League under-14 event, beating boys who are now 14. He demonstrated his improvement, and a hint of what may be to come, with brilliant displays, winning both the 10-12 145cm-plus event, beating fellow Welsh squad member Morgan Harvey in the final, and the 12-14 Shobu Ippon event, where he headed a Wales 1-2-3-3 with Tushi Karunanithy in silver and Josh Davies and Josh Dwyer (Vale) in bronze medal positions.

Josh Dwyer was also among the medals in the 13-14 165cm-plus category, where he won another bronze medal.

Alysha Lee, another fast-improving fighter, was a whisker away from reaching the final in the 10-12 145cm-plus event, earning a well-deserved bronze medal.

Leah Copeland had a bye in the first Kumite round, but was in the toughest part of the draw as her first opponent was none other than WUKF's top female fighter, Romania's Magdalena Tier, who won the under-60kg and open events at the UWK and WUKF World Championships in Slovenia last month, beating Leah in the second round on that occasion.

In the shock result of the tournament, Leah fearlessly threw herself into the challenge and brought her supporters to their feet with her greatest win yet!

Anything less than the gold medal would still have been somewhat anticlimactic, but she didn't disappoint, beating two of England's best females on the way to taking her second gold of the day.

Rhydian Pullin came close to adding to Wales' gold medal tally, narrowly falling at the final hurdle, to secure silver.

The 10-14 male rotation team event took place at 8pm, the last event of a gruelling day.

Harrison Williams, Josh Dwyer and Jack George represented the Principality in style and had secured a 7-2 win at time up, only to be disqualified due to a rule infringement.

A successful end to a great event which highlighted again the immense strength of Vale Karate and the Karate Wales squad.

On and Off The Turf
WITH BRIAN LEE

COWBRIDGE rider Byron Moorcroft was in good form at the Black Forest Lodge Club Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Black Forest Lodge on Sunday where he rode a double.

Byron took the restricted race on David Brace's *Doctor Braveheart*, which had finished second in a hunter chase in Ireland last April, and later in the afternoon landed the restricted on the Jonathan Tudor trained Northgeorge.

The former won by a head from *Templestate Floresco* and the latter scored by 12 lengths from *Wotzisname*. The runner-up in each case was ridden by national champion point-to-point rider Will Biddick.

WELSH WIZARD'S WINNING RUN CONTINUES

'Welsh wizard' National Hunt trainer Evan Williams of Llancarfan, who has been in tremendous form of late, landed a 40-1 double at Doncaster last Friday with *Go Long* and *Wild Bill* and less than 24 hours later he was back in the winner's enclosure when his *Tea In Transvaal* took the opening TRA Mares' Novices' Hurdle at Newbury.

Five-year-old *Go Long*, a 6-1 chance, who was racing for the first time in 254 days, won the Massarellas' Mister Softee Novices' Hurdle by three and a half lengths from the odds-on favourite *Charbel* and six-year-old *Wild Bill*, the 4-1 co-favourite, was a two and a half lengths winner of the Kelly's Of Cornwall Novices' Limited Handicap Chase.

Four-year-old *Tea In Transvaal*, the 11-8 favourite, came home six lengths ahead of *Colla Pier* and like *Go Long* and *Wild Bill* was ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney, who deserves at least some of the credit for the 'Welsh wizard's' success.

ON TOUR'S LONG TRIP PAYS OFF

Evan Williams' *On Tour's* long trip from Llancarfan to Carlisle on Sunday paid off when the promising seven-year-old landed the Apollobet Home Cashback Special Novices' Chase by three parts of a length from *Sirabad*.

On Tour was ridden by Paul Moloney who also was successful on *Divine Port* and *Virnon*.

NATIONAL BOOK

My book 'The Welsh Grand National – from Deerstalker to Emperor's Choice' (£14.99, paperback) is available now.

First staged at Cardiff's Ely Racecourse in 1895, the Welsh Grand National has also taken place at Newport before finding its current home, Chepstow. This book is the definitive history of the premier racing event in the Principality.

The story encompasses more than 100 years of history and includes all of the great jockeys, trainers and horses who have triumphed or failed.

This includes the remarkable case of Golden Miller's 1936 attempt to win the race; despite winning an incredible five Cheltenham Gold Cups and the Aintree Grand National, the mighty Miller could only finish third in the Welsh event.

Richly illustrated throughout, this volume is an essential purchase for anyone with an interest in racing or the sporting heritage of Wales.

Barrivale Bridge Club results

RESULTS from Barrivale Bridge Club for November 24 – which was the concluding week of the Barrivale Team Championship:

First: Irene Thomas, Jenny Vaughan, Mike Close and Mike Best. 65 IMPS: second, Mark Roderick, Noelle Bond, Peter Millar and Mick Green 36 IMPS; third, Jane Brook, Denis Mottram, Celia Thomas and Huw Thomas 14 IMPS.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. If you would like to join, call 01446 418380, 01446 733425 or 01446 735592. Call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

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Poor weather sees first team left in limbo... while the youth dig in for win!

UNFORTUNATELY the first team pitch was unplayable last Saturday so the game had to be called off.

The BA youth team however were able to play on the school pitch against Glamorgan Wanderers and, credit to both teams for trying to run the ball in difficult conditions.

Cowbridge did their scoring in the first half with tries from centre Joe Nott, wing Frazer McGhan, outside half Ash Thomas and flanker Joe Davies.

Prop Sam Richards slotted over the three conversions he was given to make it 26-0 at half-time. Glamorgan Wanderers dug in and prevented any more scores but with conditions worsening and the light fading the referee called a halt. Final score 26-0.

This Saturday Cowbridge travel away to take on Taffs Well. Taffs Well have revived themselves this season and are unbeaten and so Cowbridge, who have had good wins against teams around them, will have to show they can give a good account of themselves against the top teams.

All players are asked to make themselves available and support in numbers will be a big boost for the team.

The following week Cowbridge entertain Milford Haven in round three of the SWALEC Bowl.

This Saturday the BA youth also have a tough game at home against Glynneath in the Welsh Cup and all support for them would again be very welcome. Good luck to both teams!

RK/ RV/GT

NEW KIT FOR LOCAL SCHOOL

RECENTLY, The Co-operative, Cowbridge held an in store competition for one of three local primary schools to win a full team football strip.

Customers were handed a token which they placed in the box labelled with the name of their favoured school. In total, 328 votes were cast, with Y Bont Faen just taking the lead with 118 votes.

Jo Cairns, Community Champion at The Co-op store, said: "The Co-op is a community retailer, committed to supporting its local communities and encouraging children and young people to live active and healthier lifestyles. We are very pleased to be able to present Y Bont Faen with this full strip."

Miss Jackie Jones, PE Co-ordinator, said: "The children are delighted to have won and they will be proud to represent the school wearing their new football kit sponsored by The Co-op. A big thank you to everyone who voted for our school."

Llanfair Primary and Ysgol Iolo Morganwg each received runners up prizes of £15 in Co-op vouchers to put towards Christmas raffle prizes or Christmas party treats.

Pictured above are some of the pupils of Y Bont Faen wearing the smart new kit.

Winners Robert Calcaterra, Geraint Davies and Trevor Wooding with society captain Brian Jones and sponsor Andrew Thomas.

Farmers enjoy 'hidden jewel'

LLANTRISANT & Pontyclun Golf Club, recognised as a hidden jewel in the heart of Talbot Green with its mature trees and bounded by the river Ely, proved a welcoming venue last Thursday for the monthly meeting of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society.

Despite the very wet conditions experienced in south Wales recently, participants found the course in very good condition with many returning scores to be proud of.

Thirty-two competitors made their way to the first tee all hoping to win won of the many prizes kindly donated by the day's sponsors, Herbert R Thomas & Company Ltd of Cowbridge, which finished with just one point separating the top four.

As members returned to the clubhouse they were particularly pleased to be welcomed by the president of Llantrisant & Pontyclun Golf Club, Dr J M L Jones.

Dr Mike was elected president in 2003 and has proved during this time the perfect ambassador for this most welcoming of golf clubs, gaining the respect of golfers throughout Wales.

Following an excellent evening meal Trevor Wooding, a former member of the host golf club before leaving in 1996 to join the home of golf at Cottrell Park, was declared the winner of the HRT Trophy when returning a very impressive 37 stableford points.

Society president Geraint Davies finished runner-up with 36 points. In third place playing on his home course was Keith Davies also with 36 points, followed by Neil McLean also with 36 points.

The highest individual score of the day however was achieved by the sponsor's representative Robert Calcaterra, who returned a very impressive 40 stableford points, fully justifying a later handicap reduction of two shots for his next competition.

Nearest the pin on the par three holes were society captain Brian Jones, Tony McCarthy, Trevor Wooding and also Jim Hayes, Andrew Thomas and Clive Thomas, who earlier had demonstrated their art of skiing without skis when slipping spectacularly on the wet surface.

Dan Jarvis won the Bear Hotel Cowbridge sponsored longest drive competition and local member Robert Calvert collected the Premier Turf Ltd sponsored bottle of whisky when correctly guessing 12 balls would fail to return home.

This raised £60 for the charity Operation Christmas Child with later donations taking this amount to £145.

The society's next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 10, when members will gather at the RAF St Athan golf club for their Christmas meeting.

T.McC

Cowbridge Comprehensive School sporting updates

Year 7 Netball

THE year-7 netball teams played Stanwell at home on Tuesday November 17. After an amazing victory over Ysgol Bro Morgannwg the previous week, the girls were excited to take the court.

In the A team match, Stanwell started strongly and despite some excellent interceptions from Georgina Cole and Mia Davies in the circle, they quickly got the score board under way.

Laura Hawkins at centre, and Kate Parry at wing attack, worked tirelessly to bring the ball in to the attacking end for Alys Hale and Aimee Eason to capitalise but the Stanwell defence were solid and they led the way 5-2 at half-time.

In the second half, Aimee Eason moved out to goal attack and controlled the attacking circle perfectly to unnerve Stanwell.

Vivian Yip, wing defence, provided some much-needed support down the court. It was a solid yet controlled second half for Cowbridge who were determined to pull back the goal margin, and they did!

The score in the second half finished 5-5 showing great resilience! However due to the strong first half from Stanwell they took the overall win with a final score of 10-7.

Well done to all the girls who played.

Due to the amazingly encouraging numbers in training each week, we fielded a B1 team in the first half and a B2 team in the second half to give as many girls as possible a chance to play for the school.

Cowbridge had a great first half and went in at half-time 1-0 up, thanks to a superb goal from Megan Rees and some excellent defending from Bethan Light and Hannah Robins.

In the second half, Cowbridge started well with an early goal to take the score to 2-0.

This however gave Stanwell the drive they needed to forge ahead with greater conviction and they quickly scored three successive goals. The final score finished 3-2 to Stanwell.

Well done to all the girls! It was lovely to see so many pupils out representing the school!

Girls' Cross Country League

THE results have been finally published from the girls' third cross country league race, held at Trelai Park on Wednesday, November 4. The girls had an outstanding afternoon running in the following positions:

Year 7:

Evie Wong 7th, Rachel Gardner 12th, Laura Hawkins 24th, Alys Phillips 38th, Hannah Gardener 41st, Bronwen Williams 57th, Ellie Thomas 81st.

Years 8 and 9:

Sophie Hawkins, Isobel Annetts 16th, Alice Coe 23rd, Amelie Clode 29th, Eve Bird 32nd, Hana Martin 36th, Jess Burt 59th.

Seniors:

Jessica Wadey 1st, Mali Howell 4th, Georgia Armitage 19th, Meriel Clode 24th, Selina Radcliffe 28th Jasmine Emery 42nd, Sophie Oddy 44th, Alys, Pritchard 45th, Lowri Morgan 46th.

As a result of these excellent performances the year-7 girls' team came first overall. The year-8 and 9 team came second overall and the senior team came first overall. A fantastic set of results: well done girls!

Cowbridge teams finished in the following positions overall from all schools across Cardiff and the Vale: year-7 – 1st; year-8 and 9 – 4th; seniors – 1st.

A special mention must go to Jessica Wadey for winning the senior league points title for the third consecutive year. An outstanding achievement, well done Jess!

Thank you to all the girls for their commitment and enthusiasm throughout another successful cross country season!

Year-7 Hockey

YEAR-7 girls played Ysgol Bro Morgannwg away on Monday, November 16. We played seven-a-side and each team played three matches.

The B team, captained by Aimee Eason won two matches (2-0 and 1-0) and lost one match (2-0). The A Team captained by Seren Burgum won all three of their matches (2-0, 2-0 and 2-0).

Excellent play from the girls. Their skills have really improved with the training since September. Well done girls!

Kristian Jones

CONGRATULATIONS to Kristian Jones who has been added to the Commonwealth Games 'Futures Cymru' athlete support programme for Welsh Athletics.

The philosophy of the programme is to prepare athletes to place in the top six at the Commonwealth Games. The support for the 2015-16 period is due to Kristian's performances in the 2015 outdoor season and 2015 indoor season. He will receive an athlete support grant and he has been awarded access to all service provisions.

FG